



# SPRING CONFERENCE 2024

16 - 18 May 2024  
Derry, Northern Ireland



Verbal Arts Centre  
Bishop St, Londonderry BT48 6PP  
United Kingdom  
[www.theverbal.com](http://www.theverbal.com)

**Dear friends and Avrio colleagues,**

May I give you a personal invitation to the Avrio 16th -19th May 2024 Conference in Derry - Londonderry, Northern Ireland – my hometown – for what will be my last conference as President of Avrio Advocati.

The themes for the conference will be:

- Net Zero and what it means for lawyers and our clients;
- Data – where it's going and what all lawyers need to know;
- What non-family lawyers need to know when their clients tell you they are getting divorced;
- The economic leverage of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland post-Brexit;
- How to manage our businesses more effectively.

Derry (which is what the city is generally called) has sat in the political cross-roads of Irish history for 400 years, and as the celebrated comedy series “Derry Girls” suggests, to a large extent still sits there. But real life prevails, and, as a professional lawyer, the challenge of post-conflict civic society to rebuild economic innovation and social cohesion that is fit for the modern multi-identity and international world is a motivating and energising environment to work within. Especially when hope is in short supply generally in the world right now. It is my hope that you will experience some of this motivation and energy at this conference.

**How to get to Derry:**

- If you are flying into Ireland from beyond the UK, the best way to get to Derry is to fly through Heathrow. There are three flights daily from Heathrow Terminal 2 directly to City of Derry Airport; the carrier is Loganair ([www.loganair.co.uk](http://www.loganair.co.uk)). Then simply get a taxi to the hotel ([www.bishopsgatehotelderry.com](http://www.bishopsgatehotelderry.com)).
- The second-best airport to fly to is Belfast International Airport. There are hourly buses directly to Derry, which takes about 75 minutes. The bus company is Aircoach ([www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)). Alternatively you could hire a car there.
- There is a second airport in Belfast, called the George Best Belfast City Airport. There is no public transport that goes directly to Derry from the airport, so your choices are either to get a taxi from the airport to Lanyon Place railway station in Belfast and take the train to Derry (which takes two hours), or to hire a car.
- Flying into Dublin Airport: whilst Dublin Airport is very well connected internationally, getting from Dublin Airport to Derry is something of a challenge, as there is not yet a train link or a direct motorway (albeit it is planned). There is two direct bus services - Aircoach ([www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)) and Ulsterbus ([www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)), both of which would need to be booked in advance and takes 4.5 hours, or alternatively you could hire a car.

Karen and I, and our full team, very much look forward to welcoming you.



**Kind regards**  
**Philip Gilliland**  
**Chairman**

NOTE: What follows is some information about the Hotel and our plea to book as it is possible for you, the business, and the social agenda. Most importantly, there is a form for you to complete in which you book attendance at the various events and pay in advance. We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that you pay in advance so that we avoid the need for cash accounting. At the end of the document you can find the form that you need to complete and send it back to Marina at info@avrioadvocati.com as soon as possible.

**We are looking forward to an informative and entertaining conference.**

## Bishop's Gate Hotel



For our delegates we provisionally booked some rooms in the Bishop's Gate Hotel. This luxury boutique hotel is perfectly positioned within the historic city walls in the heart of Derry City's cathedral quarters.

As always, you book your accommodation directly with the hotel, via following email (just please indicate in the subject of your email "Avrio Advocati Conference Derry"):

[reservations@bishopsgatehotelderry.com](mailto:reservations@bishopsgatehotelderry.com)

(Prices: GBP 169 per room B&B, single occupancy; GBP 269 per 2-bedroom apartment, single or double occupancy, B&B)

In order to avoid disappointment, please book as soon as it is convenient for you. Kindly note that all the remaining rooms will be released 4 weeks ahead of the event in order to avoid cancellation charges.

**Please note that the Avrio Advocati Spring 2024 conference will be held at Verbal Arts Centre, just across the street from the Bishop's Gate Hotel.**



# SOCIAL AGENDA

## Thursday evening

- > dinner at Bishop's Gate Hotel from 19:00  
<https://www.bishopsgatehotelderry.com/dining.html>



Price per person: EUR 60 dinner with selection of drinks included (1/2 bottle of red or white selected spirits, wines, beers, water, coffee)

## Friday

- > 12:45-13:45 Light Lunch at St. Augustine's Church

Saint Augustine's church is just a 2 minutes walk from the conference venue. Cost of lunch is covered by Avrio Advocati



- > 18:30-20:00 Pre-dinner reception at Centre for Contemporary Arts, Artillery St. (\*2 min. walk from the hotel).

No charges for the delegates.

Please note that formal apparel is required (no jeans and sports shoes are allowed).

- > 20:00 Galla Dinner at Brown's Bond's Hill

[www.brownsbondshill.com](http://www.brownsbondshill.com)

Please note that formal apparel is required (no jeans and sports shoes are allowed).

Price per person: EUR 100 dinner with selection of drinks included





# SOCIAL AGENDA

## Saturday

> 13:00 - gathering in front of the hotel for a short bus ride to the Brook Hall Estate for a barbeque lunch.

[www.brookhall.co.uk](http://www.brookhall.co.uk)

Price per person: EUR 60 (for lunch menu with selection of drinks included)



> 16:00 - Bus ride back to the hotel

> Walking tour of Derry's historic walled city guided by Philip Gilliland - optional

> 19:00 onwards Dinner at WALLED CITY BREWERY

[www.walledcitybrewery.com](http://www.walledcitybrewery.com)

Price p.p: EUR 65 for dinner menu with selection of drinks included.



# AGENDA DAY 1

THURSDAY 16th of May

14:00 to 17:00 Board Meeting

[Caldwell & Robinson Offices](#), Artillery Chambers, 10-12 Artillery Street (2 minutes from hotel)

19:00 Dinner at Bishop's Gate Hotel

# AGENDA DAY 2

FRIDAY 17th of May

8:30 to 9:00 - Conference registration

09:00 - Conference Commences

9:00 to 9:15 - Introduction to the Conference ([Philip Gilliland](#))

9:15 to 10:45 - Net zero and what it means for lawyers and our clients

- [Keith Davidson](#), Irwin Mitchell

- [Professor John Gilliland](#), Queen's University Belfast

10:45 to 11:15 - Coffee break

11:15 to 12:45 - "Data – where is it going and what all lawyers need to know"

[Emmet Maginn](#), Caldwell & Robinson

[Gerry Kindlon](#), Head of Government Affairs for Europe, Seagate

12:45 to 13:45 - Lunch at St. Augustine's Church (\*2 min. walk from the conference venue)

13:45 to 15:00 - "What all non-family lawyers need to know when your client says they are getting divorced"

[Karen O'Leary](#), Caldwell & Robinson, Ireland/Northern Ireland

[Ana Rita Relogio](#), CSA, Portugal

[Karina Lohmus-Ein](#), Lillo & Lohmus, Estonia

[Clare Weisman](#), Irwin Mitchell, UK

15:00 to 15:30 - Coffee break

15:30 to 16:30 - “Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland economic leverage post-Brexit”

John Healy, Chair, Invest Northern Ireland

Stephen Kelly, CEO, Manufacturing Northern Ireland

Gerry Kindlon, Board Member, IBEC (Irish Business & Employers Confederation)

16:30 to 16:35 - Wrap up and Instructions for the social agenda

18:30 to 20:00 - Pre-dinner reception at Centre for Contemporary Art (\*2 min. walk from the hotel)

20:00 onwards - Dinner at Brown’s Bond’s Hill

## **AGENDA DAY 3**

**SATURDAY 18th of May**

10:00 to 11:00 - Philip Gilliland - Chair and Ana Rita Relogio – Treasurer:

Introduction to the day, Avrio Advocati internal matters

11:00 to 11:30 - Coffee and networking

11:30 to 13:00 - Plenary session (topics tbc)

Wrap up and instructions for the social agenda (Philip Gilliland)

13:00 to 16:00 - Barbeque Lunch at Brook Hall Estate (short bus journey)

Guided tour of historical Brook Hall arboretum

Bus back to the hotel

Walking Tour of Derry’s historic walled city by Philip Gilliland

19:00 onwards - Dinner at Walled City Brewery

# BOOKING FORM

Derry, 16 – 18 May 2024

LAW FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_ DELEGATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIN AREA OF PRACTICE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/PARTNER/CHILDREN NAME (IF ACCOMPANIED): \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMMODATION IN PITTSBURGH: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME OF ARRIVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE & TIME OF DEPARTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT CELLPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

	ATTENDEE NAME	ATTENDEE NAME	TOTAL COST	DIETARY REQUIREMENTS & QUANTITY
<b>THURSDAY EVENING</b> <b>DINNER at BISHOP'S GATE</b> <b>HOTEL</b> (EUR 60 p.p)				
<b>FRIDAY AFTERNOON</b> <b>Lunch at St. Augustine</b> (Costs covered by Avrio Advocati)				• (not applicable)
<b>FRIDAY EVENING</b> <b>PRE-DINNER RECEPTION</b> (costs covered by AA) <b>GALA DINNER at</b> <b>BROWN'S BOND'S HILL</b>				
<b>SATURDAY AFTERNOON</b> <b>Barbeque Lunch at BROOKHALL</b> <b>ESTATE</b> (EUR 60 p.p)				
<b>SATURDAY DINNER</b> <b>DINNER at WALLED CITY</b> <b>BREWERY</b> (EUR 65 p.p)				
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>				

Please transfer the total amount due and owing to the following bank account:

ING Marnix (Brussels, Belgium) / IBAN: BE92 3630 6995 4723 / SWIFT: BBRU BE BB

I hereby confirm that in returning this Booking Form I have transferred the requisite funds to the above bank account and understand that this payment is non-refundable.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS BOOKING FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO [INFO@AVRIOADVOCATI.COM](mailto:INFO@AVRIOADVOCATI.COM) AND MAKE PAYMENT TO THE BANK ACCOUNT SIMULTANEOUSLY. WHEN MAKING PAYMENT, PLEASE STATE IN THE PAYMENT TRANSFER FORM "PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF SOCIAL EVENTS FOR DERRY CONFERENCE FROM ....."

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF FOR VALID REASONS TRANSFER OF THE MONIES INTO AVRIO BANK ACCOUNT CANNOT BE MADE, PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKING FORM AS NORMAL AND PAY THE AMOUNT TO MARINA WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT. THE AMOUNT SHOULD BE IN EUROS AND IN A SEALED ENVELOPE BEARING YOUR NAME AND THE LIST OF SOCIAL EVENTS WHICH YOU ARE ATTENDING.