

CHARTER

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and soforth, to all unto whom these presents shall come, greeting. Whereas by a Petition addressed to His Excellency George William Frederick Villiers, Earl of Clarendon, our late Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, from William Goddard, Richard John Theodore Orpen, and Richard Meade, on behalf of themselves and the other Attorneys and Solicitors practising in Ireland setting forth that the Petitioners and several others of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland with a view to the general benefit of their Profession, had associated themselves for the purpose of founding an institution for facilitating the acquisition of legal knowledge, and for the better and more conveniently discharging their professional duties, and also to purchase in perpetuity or for any term of lives or years, or other estate, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, *the yearly value of which should not exceed in the whole, at any one time, the sum of one thousand pounds, computing the same respectively at the rack rent which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof,** and also all manner of goods, chattels, and things whatsoever, of what nature or value soever, which they might think requisite for the purposes of said Society, and also from time to time to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose of any of the same messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments wherein they should have any estate or interest, or which they might acquire as aforesaid. That it was intended that such institution should be formed in connection with the Society called "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland". That said Society was already in possession of a Library and valuable Maps and Surveys of Ireland, and other chattel property, all of which were in the custody of their Secretary. That a Committee of Management, consisting of thirty-one Members of said Society, had been appointed with certain powers, and a certain Hall and other apartments at the Four Courts were vested in Trustees for their use, and which Hall and apartments were fitted up in a manner suitable and convenient for the purposes of such an establishment, and that the said Committee had received from the Members of the said Society respectively certain rateable deposits in money, as subscriptions, for the carrying on the business of the said "Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland". That the Petitioners conceived that the intentions of the said Society would be carried into execution more effectually, beneficially, and satisfactorily to the public, if the Petitioners were incorporated by Royal Charter with all such other persons as now had and were possessed, or should hereafter be possessed, of any share or shares of the capital stock of the said Society, or of any augmentation of the said capital stock hereafter to be made either as original subscribers or otherwise, for and during such times as they should respectively have and be possessed of such share or shares, and no longer, by the said name of "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", and that the Petitioners and the said other persons should be endowed and invested by our Royal Charter with such convenient powers, capacities, privileges, jurisdictions, and authorities, and under such regulations as would best conduce to the purposes of their incorporation, and praying that the subject of such petition might be taken into consideration, and such other order made thereon as to His Excellency should seem good and proper to carry the intention of the Petitioners into effect: And Whereas our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and councillor, George William Frederick Villiers, Earl of Clarendon, our late Lieutenant-General and General Governor of that part of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, having referred the said Petition to our late Attorney-General for Ireland, to consider the same, and report what was proper to be done thereupon, our said late Attorney-General reported his opinion that he saw no legal objection to a compliance with the prayer of the Petition, nor any reason why the association of Irish Solicitors should not be entitled to a Charter for the same purposes as those for which the English Solicitors obtained a Charter, the provisions of the Charter to the Irish Solicitors being confined to Practitioners in Ireland: And Whereas it has been represented unto us, by our late Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, that it would be expedient to accede to the prayer of such Petition, and to grant our Royal Charter for the purposes stated herein, we are graciously pleased to condescend thereto: Know ye, therefore, that we of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and councillor, Archibald William, Earl of Eglinton, our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, and according to the tenor and effect of our Letter under our Privy Signet and Royal Sign Manual, bearing date at our Court of St. James's the fifteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, in the fifteenth year of our Reign, now enrolled in the Rolls of our High Court of Chancery in Ireland aforesaid, have granted, constituted, declared, and appointed, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant, constitute, declare, and appoint that they the said William Goddard, Richard John Theodore Orpen, and Richard Meade, and all other persons being Attorneys or Solicitors practising in our Courts of Justice within that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, or who shall have voluntarily retired from such practice (not being

Petition or grant of Charter.

Property £1,000

Petition referred to the Attorney-General for approval.

Petition approved of by Attorney-General.

Queen's Letter granting Charter under Sign Manual, dated 15th March, 1852, in the 15th year of the reign.

*The words in italics were by deleted Section 76 Solicitors Act, 1954.

Name of the Corporation.

May sue and be sued.

May use Common Seal

To have Perpetual succession. To purchase land, &c., to limited extent

and sell the same.

Bodies politic and corporate empowered to give land to the Society.

Members rendered incapable of practising by order of Court, to cease to be Member.

The number of Members of the Society to be Indefinite.

Society to be governed by a President, two Vice-Presidents, and Council, to consist of not less than twenty-one nor more than thirty-one Members.

Names of President, Vice-Presidents, and Council.

Barristers), and who shall from time to time be duly admitted members thereof, shall be and be called one body politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name and style of "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", and them by the name of "The Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", we do for us, our heirs and successors, make, erect, ordain and constitute, establish, confirm, and declare to be one body politic and corporate in deed and in law for ever: And we do will and declare that by the name of "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", they and their successors shall and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in whatsoever courts and places, and before any Judge, Justices or officers of us, our heirs and successors, in all and singular actions, pleas, suits, plaints, matters and demands of what kind or quality soever they shall be, in the same manner and form, and as fully and amply as any of our subjects of this our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland may and can do.

And that they "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", shall and may have and use a common seal for the affairs and business of the said Society; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Society, and their successors, the same common seal from time to time, at their will and pleasure, to break, change, alter, or make anew, or to them shall seem expedient.

And we do further will and declare, that by the same name of "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", they shall have perpetual succession, and at all times hereafter shall be able and capable in law to purchase, acquire, have, take, hold, receive, and enjoy, to them and their successors, in perpetuity, or for any terms of lives, or years, or other estate, any messuages, lands, tenements, rents, possessions, and hereditaments, of what nature or kind soever, *the yearly value of which shall not exceed in the whole, at any one time, the sum of one thousand pounds, computing the same respectively at the rack rent which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively, at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof**; and also all manner of goods, chattels, and things whatsoever of what nature or value soever, which they may think requisite for the purposes of the said Society.

*Amended by Section 76, Solicitors Act, 1954. Words in italics deleted.

And also, from time to time, to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose of, any of the same messuages, lands, tenements, rents, possessions, and hereditaments, wherein they shall have any estate or interest, or which they shall so acquire as aforesaid.

And we do hereby further will and grant special licence, power, faculty, and authority, to any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, their heirs and successors, respectively, to give, grant, sell, alien, assign, dispose, or demise, in mortmain, in perpetuity, or otherwise, to, or to the use and benefit of, or in trust for, "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", and their successors, any messuages, lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments, *not exceeding, with the lands so purchased or previously acquired, and then held by the said Society, such yearly value as aforesaid**; and also any sum or sums of money, goods, chattels, stocks in the public funds, securities for money, and other personal estate, to be laid out and disposed of in the purchase of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, *not exceeding in the whole the like yearly value**, for the purposes of the said Society.

*Amended by Section 76, Solicitors Act, 1954. Words in italics deleted.

And we do further will, and declare, that, in case any Member of the Society shall, in consequence of the Rules or Order of any Court of competent judicature, be rendered incapable of practising in the Courts of Justice in Ireland, or any of them, such person shall ipso facto forthwith cease to be a Member of the said Society.

And we do further will, and declare, that the number of Members of the Society shall be indefinite, and that the other persons who are Members of the said Society at the time of the granting of this our Charter of Incorporation, shall be the first Members of the Society hereby incorporated, being the persons who have associated themselves as aforesaid, and shall continue to be Members thereof so long as they comply with the rules and regulations of the Society.

And we do further will and declare that, for the better rule and government of the Society, and for the better direction and management of the concerns thereof, there shall be a Council, consisting of not less than twenty-one Members, or more than thirty-one Members, elected from among the Members of the said Society, and a President and two Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Council from their own number.

And we do further declare and appoint that the said William Goddard shall be the first President of the said Society, and the said Richard Meade and the said Richard John Theodore Orpen shall be the first Vice-Presidents of the said Society; and that the said William Goddard, Richard Meade, Richard John Theodore Orpen together with Edward Reeves, John Hazlett, John T. Kift, Arthur Barlow, John Collum, Thomas Mostyn, Mathew Anderson, Sir Mathew Barrington, Ralph Scott, Robert Power, William Gibson, Richard Atkinson, Murdock Green, William Henry M'Grath, David Fitzgerald, John Martin, William Baker, James Dillon Meldon, Thomas Jameson, Alexander Dudgeon, Michael Creagh, Adam John Macrory, Denis O'Callaghan Fisher, Edward Mathews, Pelham Joseph Mayne, Arthur Ellis, John O'Sullivan, and Mark Toomey, shall be the Members of the first Council, until the first General Meeting of the said Society for the election of the Council shall be held in pursuance of these presents.

And we further will and declare, that the Council of the said Society shall have power from time to time, at their meetings, to be held at the times and places to be directed by the Bye-laws of the Society, to appoint and elect, in the manner to be directed by such Bye-laws, such persons as they shall think fit, being Attorneys or Solicitors practising within that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, or who shall have voluntarily retired from such practice (not being Barristers), to be Members of the Society.

Council elect Members.

And we do further will and direct, that subject, and without prejudice to the powers hereinafter vested in the General Meetings of the Society, the Council shall have the sole and entire management of the Society, and of the income and property thereof, for the uses, purposes, and benefit of the Society; and shall have the sole and exclusive right of nominating and appointing a Secretary, Librarian, and such other Officers, Clerks, Attendants, and Servants, as they may deem necessary, or useful to the Society, and of removing them if they shall think fit, and shall prescribe their respective duties: And that it shall and may be lawful for the Council, or any five or more of them, to assemble and meet together when and as often as they shall think fit, until the passing of the Bye-laws of the said Society, and from and after the passing of such Bye-laws, at such times and places, to do such acts as shall appear to them, or the majority of them present, necessary or fitting to be done, in order to carry into full operation and effect the object and purposes of the Society, so always that the same be not inconsistent with, or repugnant to, the provisions of this our Charter, or any existing Bye-law, Ordinance, or Regulation made, ordered or agreed upon, at any General Meeting of the Members of the said Society, or the Laws and Statutes of this our Realm.

Powers of the Council.

And we do further will and declare that at any General Meeting it shall and may be lawful for the Members of the said Society, or such of them as shall be then present, to ordain and make such and so many Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, as to them, or to the major portion of them, shall seem necessary, convenient, and proper for the regulation and good government of the Society, and of the Members and Officers thereof, and of the manner of electing the President and Vice-Presidents, and other Members of the Council, and also the period of their continuance in office, and the manner and time in which any vacancy in the office of President, or Vice-Presidents, or any vacancies in the Council by death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be supplied, and for regulating the times and places at which meetings of the said Society and Council shall be held, and the manner of appointing and admitting persons to be Members of the said Society, and of removing or expelling Members from the said Society, and fixing the conditions upon and the manner in which Clerks serving under Articles, or who have served under Articles to Members of the Society, may be admitted to the Hall and Library of the Society, and for convening the ordinary or any special meetings of the Members; and generally for carrying the objects for which the said Society is founded into full and complete effect, with reasonable penalties, fines, and amerciaments, to be contained in such Bye-laws, on the Officers for non-performance of, or for disobedience to, the same: And the said Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, penalties, fines, and amerciaments, or any of them, from time to time to alter, change, or annul, as the said General Meeting shall think requisite, and to mitigate the same as they shall find cause, so as all and singular such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, penalties, fines, and amerciaments, be reasonable, and not repugnant or contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this our Realm.

General Meetings may make Bye-Laws.

Apprentices may be admitted

Reasonable Penalties.

And we further will and declare, that a General Meeting of the Members of the said Society shall be held within the space of six calendar months after the date of these presents, for the making and ordaining Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, for the government of the said Society; and that an Annual Meeting shall thereafter be held, at such time as the Bye-laws shall direct, for the election of the Council, and for other purposes of the said Society; and that other General Meetings may be held from time to time, as occasion shall require, and as the Bye-laws shall direct.

General Meetings to be held within six calendar months, and an Annual Meeting as Bye-Laws shall direct and other General Meetings as required and directed.

And we will and direct, that at all General Meetings the President of the said Society, if he shall be present, and if not, then the Vice-Presidents, and in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, then some one of the Members of the Council, to be chosen by the Council; and in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, and all the Members of the Council, then some member of the Society, to be chosen at the meeting, shall preside as Chairman.

At General Meetings the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, or one of the Council, or one of the Members to be chosen Chairman.

And lastly, we will and declare, that the Letters Patent to be passed to the said Corporation to be thereby established, and their successors, or the enrolment or exemplification of said Letters patent, shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, and construed, and judged in the most favourable and beneficial sense, for the best advantage of the said Corporation and their successors, as well in all our Courts of Record as elsewhere, by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers, and other subject of us, our heirs and successors, any non-recital, mis-recital, or any other omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding.

Charter to be liberally Construed.

Provided always, that these our Letters Patent be enrolled in the Rolls of our High Court of Chancery in that part of our said United Kingdom called Ireland, within the space of six months

Enrolled
5th April, 1852.

next ensuing the date of these presents. In witness whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS.—Archibald William, Earl of Eglinton our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, at Dublin, the fifth day of April, in the fifteenth year of our Reign.

C. FITZSIMON,
Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper.

Enrolled in the Office of the Rolls of her Majesty's High Court of Chancery in Ireland, on the 27th day of April, 1852.

J. M'MAHON, D.K.R.

SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

Letters
Patent of
5th April, 1852.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and soforth. To all to whom these presents shall come—Greeting:

Whereas we did, by our Letters Patent under the Great Seal of that part of our said United Kingdom called Ireland, bearing date at Dublin the 5th day of April, in the 15th year of our Reign, grant, constitute, declare, and appoint that William Goddard, Richard Theodore Orpen, and Richard Meade, and all other persons being Attorneys and Solicitors practising in our Courts of Justice within that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, or who should have voluntarily retired from such practice (not being Barristers), and who should from time to time be duly admitted members thereof, should be and be called one body politic and corporate in deed and in law by the name and style of "The Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland", and them by the name of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland, we did, for us, our heirs and successors, make, erect, ordain, and constitute, establish, confirm, and declare to be one body politic and corporate in deed and in law for ever, and did grant to the Society thereby incorporated divers powers, liberties, and privileges in the same Letters Patent mentioned, and we did thereby also grant and declare that for the better rule and government of the Society, and for the better direction and management of the concerns thereof, there should be a Council of the Society, to be elected from among the members of the Society, and a President and two Vice-Presidents of the Society to be elected from the Council, and that such Council, including the President and Vice-Presidents, should consist of not more than thirty-one nor less than twenty-one members, and that the Council should have the powers therein mentioned (exercisable by a quorum of five).

And we did thereby further grant and declare that at any general meeting it should be lawful for the members or such of them as should be then present, to ordain and make such and so many bye-laws, rules, orders, and ordinances as to them or the major part of them should seem necessary, convenient and proper for (among other objects therein mentioned) the regulation and good government of the Society and of the members and officers thereof, and of the manner of electing the President and Vice-Presidents and other members of the Council, and also the period of their continuance in office, and the manner and time in which any vacancy in the Office of President or Vice-President, or any vacancies in the Council by death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, should be supplied.

Petitions for
Supplemental
Charter.

And whereas it has been represented to us that since the date of such Charter a greatly increased amount of work has devolved on the Council of the Society, and that it would be expedient and would extend the usefulness of the Society if power were conferred on the Council to nominate a limited number of the Members of the Councils of other Law Societies established in Ireland for like purposes to represent such other Societies on the Council as Extraordinary Members thereof. And also if power were conferred upon the Members of the Society, resident elsewhere than in Dublin, to elect four Members upon the Council, one for each of the four Provinces of Ireland, hereinafter called Provincial Delegates, and the said Society, have by their Petition, humbly besought us to grant to them our Royal Charter for carrying into effect the above-mentioned objects, and also for changing the name of the Society in manner hereinafter appearing.

Queen's Letter
granting
Supplemental
Charter under
Sign Manual,
dated
22nd October,
1888.
in the 52nd
year of Her
Reign.

Know ye, therefore, that we, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and entirely beloved cousin and Councillor, Charles Stewart Marquis of Londonderry, K.G., our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of that part of our said United Kingdom, called Ireland, and according to the tenor and effect of our letter under our Privy Signet and Royal Sign Manual bearing date at our Court, at Saint James's, the twenty-second day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, in the 52nd year of our Reign, have given and granted, and by these presents we do hereby give and grant unto our trusty and well-beloved subjects, the Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland, that for the better rule and government of the Society, and for the better management and direction of the concerns thereof, the Council of the said Society, including the President and Vice-Presidents, shall consist of not more than thirty-one nor less than twenty-one Members,

exclusive, of Extraordinary Members of the Council and Provincial Delegates to be elected as hereinafter mentioned.

And we do further grant that in addition to the Ordinary Members of Council any Solicitor holding, at the time of his appointment or election, the office of President or Member of the Council of the Northern Law Society, or the office of President or Member of the Council of the Southern Law Association, shall be eligible to be appointed by the Council an Extraordinary Member of the Council.*

Election of Extraordinary Members.

Provided that the number of such Extraordinary Members of the Council shall not at any one time exceed ten, that is to say, five from the Northern Law Society, of whom not more than three shall be present at any meeting of the Council; and five from the Southern Law Association, of whom not more than three shall be present at any meeting of the Council.

Election of Provincial Delegates.

And we do further grant that, in addition to such Ordinary Members and Extraordinary Members of Council, it shall be lawful for the Members of the Incorporated Law Society, resident elsewhere than in the city of Dublin, to elect four Provincial Delegates, one to be elected by the Members of the Society resident in the province of Connaught, one by the members resident in the province of Munster, one by the Members resident in the province of Ulster, and one by the Members resident in the province of Leinster, elsewhere than in the city of Dublin; and such Provincial Delegates shall be elected at the same time as the Ordinary Members of Council, and shall hold office for the same term.

Powers of Extraordinary Members and Provincial Delegates.

And we do further grant that the said Extraordinary Members and Provincial Delegates shall have the same powers and duties during their terms of office as such Extraordinary Members or Provincial Delegates, as by the said recited Charter are given to Ordinary Members of Council, except that no Extraordinary Member or Provincial Delegate shall be eligible for President or Vice-President of the Council.

General Meetings may make bye-laws.

And we will and declare that the powers given to a General Meeting by the said recited Charter, of making and ordaining bye-laws, rules, orders, and ordinances, with respect to the manner of electing Members of the Council, and also the period and time of their continuing in office, and the manner and time of supplying vacancies, shall continue applicable to the Ordinary Members of Council, and shall apply also to the Delegates hereinbefore mentioned.

Name of Corporation.

And lastly, we do will and declare that the name and style of the Society shall be henceforth changed from the "Incorporated Society of Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland" to the "Incorporated Law Society of Ireland", and that all the rights and privileges granted to such Incorporated Society of Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland shall be transferred to the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland as fully as if that name and style had been inserted in the original Charter of Incorporation.

Charter to be liberally construed.

And we do also for our heirs and successors grant and declare that these our Letters Patent, or the enrolment or exemplification of the same shall be in all things good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense, and for the best advantage of the said Corporation and their successors, as well in all our Courts in Ireland as elsewhere, by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers, and other subjects of us, our heirs and successors, any non-recital, mis-recital, or any other omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Provided always that these our Letters Patent be enrolled in the Rolls of the Chancery Division of our High Court of Justice in Ireland within the space of six calendar months next ensuing the date hereof. In witness whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness, CHARLES STEWART Marquis of Londonderry, K.G., our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, at Dublin, the 14th day of December, in the fifty-second year of our Reign.

J. NUGENT LENTAIGNE,
Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper and Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

Enrolled in the Consolidated Record and Writ Office of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in Ireland, Chancery Division, on the 22nd day of December, 1888.

WILLIAM SULLIVAN, C.R.W.

*Amended by section 33 Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1960 enabling the Council to appoint three additional extraordinary members from the Council of the Dublin Solicitors' Bar Association.