# Participant Information Sheet

**Title of Project**: Women in Corporate Law

**Name of Researcher**: Beth Devlin

**Name of Supervisor**: Dr Catriona Cannon

**Programme:** LLM by Research, School of Law

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

This study forms part of my research for the degree of LLM by Research in the School of Law at the University of Glasgow. The subject of my research is to discuss proposed solutions to the current inequalities experienced by female solicitors working in corporate law firms in Ireland. The aim of the study that you are being invited to participate in is to gather participant views on the proposals and to receive your suggestions for modifications or alternatives. This study will contribute to the larger research project by ensuring that the recommendations for reform are thoroughly considered, constructive and relevant to the issues being addressed.

Participants have been chosen on the basis that they currently hold, or have previously held, practicing certificates issued by the Law Society of Ireland and have experience working within a corporate law firm in Dublin, Ireland. Approximately ten participants will take part in the study. Interviews with participants will occur over the next four months.

Participation is entirely voluntary and will consist of an interview with me which will last approximately 1 hour and which will take place over the phone or through Zoom. I would like to audio record the interview (with your consent) to ensure accurate recording of your views. If the interview is audio recorded, I will ask you to review the transcript of the recorded interview. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time, without providing a reason for doing so.

The data collected for the purposes of this research will be presented in a thesis submitted for assessment as required by the LLM by Research programme. It is anticipated that the degree will be awarded at the end of 2021 and, where requested, I will email participants with a copy of the thesis thereafter. The data may also be used in conference papers or in journal articles published from this thesis. Participants will be referred to by pseudonyms in the thesis, and any information on the participant’s practice area or details about the firm will be used sparingly and only where necessary to give sufficient context to data. Due to the small nature of the sample size and the geographical scope of the study there is a risk that participants may be identified and as a result anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

Assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases, the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies or the authorities, including An Garda Síochána.

Data will be stored securely under lock and key where is it held in hardcopy or encrypted or stored on secure servers where it is held electronically. Research data may be provided to other researchers, but only on request and subject to an agreement of confidentiality. Participant’s names and firm names will be removed from transcripts and replaced with a pseudonym. However, this will be reversible, and a key of pseudonyms will be stored securely, separately from the other data, and this will be destroyed 6 months following the end of the research project, in addition to any audio recordings of interviews. Research data will be held securely for a period of 10 years following the completion of the research project, after which time it will be destroyed. Research data will be stored in a secure repository for these 10 years where it will be available to other organisations and individuals with restricted access. Where data is destroyed, physical copies will be shredded, and electronic files will be removed using secure removal software.

Should a participant experience distress during or as a result of this research, they are encouraged to contact LawCare who offer support to members of the legal community experiencing difficulties with mental health and wellbeing.

This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee

If you would like further information about this research, please do not hesitate to contact me at e.devlin.1@research.gla.ac.uk or my supervisor at Catriona.Cannon@glasgow.ac.uk.

To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston, email: Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_End of Participant Information Sheet\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_