About this seminar

Gowling WLG and Mason Hayes & Curran recently teamed up to host Simon Coveney, Ireland's minister of housing, planning and local government, and Jim Kelly, ambassador of Ireland to Canada, as part of a special symposium exploring the many opportunities that Ireland holds for foreign businesses and investors.

Held in Gowling WLG's Toronto office, the event featured addresses by both Kelly and Coveney, followed by interactive panel discussions with leading industry experts - all of which served to highlight Ireland's business-friendly environment and unique position as a new and growing European gateway for North American trade.

CPD/CLE

This program counts for up to 1.5 hours of substantive credits towards the mandatory CPD requirements of the LSUC and LSBC. It will also count towards the mandatory continuing education requirement of the Barreau du Québec.
Scott: Let me take a minute to introduce you to our co-sponsor today. Mason Hayes Curran is one of the largest business law firms in Ireland. Their areas of expertise include M&A, securities, tax, finance, financial services and litigation, in which areas they are objectively ranked as one of, if not the top, law firm in Ireland. Motivated by what was seen by us as an increasing level of interest on the part of Canadian businesses in Ireland, not only as a gateway to Europe, but as a great place to do business, together with the Mason Hayes Curran firm we decided that the time was right to pull together a group of experienced business people, and experts, to talk about doing business in Ireland.

With that let me introduce you to representative of your host firm, Emer Gilvary. Emer is the chairperson of Mason Hayes Curran and in her own right is a formidable leader of the legal profession in Ireland. Emer.

Emer: Good morning everyone and thank you for that introduction, Minister, Ambassador. Thanks so much to everyone for being here this morning. It’s wonderful to see a full room. Thank you in particular to Scott and the Gowling WLG team who put in an awful lot of effort into this program. It is about timing. I suppose Canada and Ireland are two of the most outward facing economies that we have in the world. We find ourselves in a strange place because our respective largest trading partners, and our next door neighbours, are taking a different path of travel. They’re looking to internalize, or at least that’s what we think they’re doing, and they’re
looking away from globalization. We need to look at that as an opportunity. Some people might call it a challenge but Irish people are really good at taking up a challenge. I think we found that out and we learned a lot about ourselves when we went into a deeper session in 2008. Your heads were down for a while and I was reminded many times about what WB 8 said about the Irish when he said, "Being Irish we have a deep sense of tragedy which sustains us to temporary moments of joy." But you know something? We picked up that ball and we got back on the pitch and we now have an even stronger more diversified economy. We kept doing what
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