

Overtake rate of 20 judges with highest number of appeals decided on by Court of Appeal

No of appeals	Judge	Overtake rate
12	Max Barrett	83%
10	John O'Hagan	70%
33	Paul Carney	64%
11	Thomas Teehan	64%
9	Anthony Barr	56%
38	Martin Nolan	53%
19	Carroll Moran	53%
25	Michael O'Shea	52%
17	Rory MacCabe	47%
15	John Hedigan	47%
11	Desmond Hogan	45%
24	Nicholas Kearns	42%
12	Patricia Ryan	42%
10	Aileen Donnelly	40%
11	Brian McGovern	36%
20	Pat McCartan	35%
20	Seán Ó Donnabháin	30%
14	Patrick McCarthy	29%
11	Barry White	18%
11	George Birmingham	9%

With overturn rates like this (see left) one has to wonder about the required consistency and uniformity of judicial decisions - not to mention the obvious unreliability of much that is handed down as 'authoritative' in the Irish Courts... but who's to worry? After all, each wrong decision - each subsequent appeal - or each miscarriage of justice can be challenged ad-indefinitum by dumping even more public money into the hands of unscrupulous, State-sponsored lawyers who can claim unvouched fees of thousands per day!

And at the end of the day of course (that's if you're still living and breathing) you can always appeal to the Supreme Court or the European Court of Human Rights (if you can afford it).

Meanwhile of course, the victims of this rampant incompetence and ineptitude are expected not only to pay for the privilege of being exploited, abused and misinformed... but when it comes to the REALLY big questions regarding allegations of corruption and misconduct by the Government and their various 'connected' friends - well, we can absolutely rely on the vast experience, legal knowledge and moral wisdom of retired members of the judiciary to investigate all of this rampant criminality and return to the people (who, we must remember are paying for all this) with an open, transparent and robust report that clearly identifies the wrongdoers and recommends that 'the appropriate action' should be taken.. right?

We deserve better than this Ireland!

Retired judges must be the busiest people in Ireland

Following last week's publication of the comptroller and auditor general's report into the sale of Nama's northern Irish loans, the matter will come before a Dail public accounts committee (PAC) hearing this week. And that's before an official Project Eagle inquiry begins yet another probe into the matter.

So, yet another crack team of locksmiths is to be assembled to offer expert views on why yet another stable-door bolt has failed. And yet again, it seems, statutory bodies weren't vigilant enough to ensure these safeguards are working in the first place. The same bodies who were found so lacking in the crazy years leading

up to the banking crisis. Why, if the director of corporate enforcement is meeting his stated goals of "raising standards of compliance, identifying suspected misconduct, and securing and prudently managing our resources", do we constantly require statutory inquiries and PAC probes? Why also, when we have the garda ombudsman and the garda inspectorate to investigate anything untoward within the gardai, was the Fennelly inquiry necessary?

All this wasteful duplication should itself be probed. Now if only we could find a retired judge, not already committed to heading another inquiry, to take the job.