

A Legal Approach to NEW TECHNOLOGY

InBUSINESS spoke with Ronan Daly Jermyn managing partner Richard Martin about how Irish law firms are embracing technology to meet client needs faster and more efficiently.

Q: What are the main challenges faced by the legal sector in Ireland today?

A: Law firms, more than ever, need to innovate and embrace new technologies to meet client needs and expectations. Our clients want more services, they want those services delivered faster and they want them at a lower cost; these are our key challenges. This means that law firms must find different methods of delivering legal services and in a way that reduces costs for clients. Technology will underpin all of these developments.

Q: Do you think that law firms in Ireland are doing enough to embrace technology, or is there a reluctance for some?

A: Big data continues to be a disruptor in the legal marketplace. Early adopters are applying technology to legal research and case preparation. While not replacing lawyers any time soon, artificial intelligence (AI) certainly has the potential to dramatically enhance the services we deliver to clients, providing us with the ability to automate routine legal tasks, both on the transactional and

litigation side, so lawyers can focus on more complex work.

Q: Can you tell me about your firm's aim to position itself as a specialist for various sectors within the technology industry, such as cybersecurity?

A: The rate of cybercrime in Ireland has almost doubled since 2012 and is substantially higher than global averages. Ronan Daly Jermyn regularly advises clients in the area of data protection, data breaches, data subject access requests and transfers of data abroad. We use this working knowledge to help clients prevent attacks, monitor potential cyber risks, and respond to breaches.

In October of this year we hosted a cyber security event, attended by 100 CEO/CIO representatives from multinational corporates, indigenous large and medium sized Irish companies and Government. We invited the executive director of the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity in Berkeley, California to be a keynote speaker at the event and, through interactive sessions, helped our guests explore potential future cybersecurity scenarios and how best to plan and position ourselves for such possibilities.

Q: Has Ronan Daly Jermyn made any recent investments in technology, or is it planning to do so in the near future?

A: Earlier this year we hired a chief information officer who is responsible for the firm's information strategy. He and our full team of seven IT professionals are committed to the delivery of cost-effective and innovative legal services to our clients.

We are also examining a variety of products in the area of AI and secure access, ensuring our clients will have access to soft files relating to transactions that we are undertaking for them.

Information security continues to be a top priority for the firm. We are currently working to achieve an ISO 27001 certification by mid 2017, considered by many as an industry gold standard.

Q: To other law firms reading this piece, what is your main message concerning technology and its potential impact on the future of the sector?

A: Firms must adapt to a rapidly changing legal landscape. Those firms who successfully leverage new technologies are going to have a distinct advantage over those who don't.



Richard Martin, Ronan Daly Jermyn Managing Partner