

## **R3 Annual Conference – Dublin, April 2017**

Every year R3, the Association of Business Recovery Professionals, organises an industry wide conference, bringing together senior restructuring and insolvency professionals to discuss the role, development, and future of the profession. Last year, with the assistance of an international legal and professional development grant from the Bar Council and the Chancery Bar Association, I was able to attend the R3 Annual Conference in Dublin in April 2017.

The opportunity brought with it three particular advantages.

Firstly, the conference programme was nothing short of excellent, with sessions covering technical updates, practical guidance, and future policy considerations. Of particular note was a talk given by a detective sergeant about cryptocurrencies and bitcoin in the insolvency context, something about which I previously knew next to nothing. Disappointingly, the talks from the Insolvency Service and HMRC were cancelled as the 2017 general election had been announced only days beforehand – but that was more than made up for by an interesting talk from Simon Jack, BBC Business Editor, on the UK business landscape following Brexit.

Secondly, the Conference attracts senior and junior practitioners from many organisations, and thus provided an invaluable networking opportunity. It was good to meet so many people in one place, at the very start of my career.

Lastly, and from a personal perspective, I cannot deny that it was enormous fun to visit Dublin for a long weekend.

I am extremely grateful to both the Bar Council and the Chancery Bar Association for the opportunity. I confess that I did not know the grant existed until very shortly before the deadline for applications; I simply would not have attended the Conference without it, and on that note I strongly encourage others to apply.

Faith Julian

9 Stone Buildings