

Pilot Virtual Hearing Program Before the Court of Appeal

The Court Service of Ireland has taken on a groundbreaking approach to Court hearings in light of the COVID-19 crisis in Ireland. Kirby Tarrant and Clodagh MacNamara of Clark Hill are delighted to have been involved in a virtual Court of Appeal call which took place on the 21st April 2020. The program aims to facilitate the operation of critical Court sittings and the video technology partner that is facilitating the operation of the virtual Courts is Pexip Virtual Meeting Room Platform. Of particular importance for litigants is the fact that no party to an Appeal can be forced to have their case heard virtually, but if a party wants to push their case forward they may do so by agreement with the other party to the Appeal. The Court Service has also adopted an electronic filing procedure with respect to Appeal papers as follows:

- Appeal papers being filed electronically should be delivered in PDF format;
- Notice of Appeal, Respondents Notices, and Submissions should also be delivered in Word format;
- The filing party should notify the other party or parties to the Appeal of the filing of documents and copies of the documents filed should be provided electronically to such party or parties without delay; and
- The means of filing is by way of email to courtofappealcivil@courts.ie.

Data rooms will potentially be set up to facilitate the filing of electronic books of Appeal for the purpose of the substantive Appeal hearing.

Should you require any more information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Kirby Tarrant, email ktarrant@clarkhill.ie, or Clodagh MacNamara, email cmacnamara@clarkhill.ie, of this office.

Please share this notification with any of your clients or contacts who you feel might benefit from our advice.