

THE NOTARY OF IRELAND: LAW AND PRACTICE

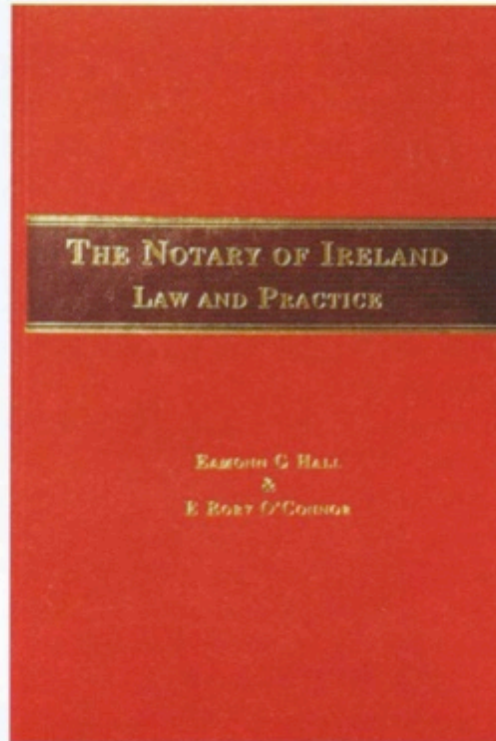
Eamon Hall and Rory O'Connor. LawBooks Ireland (2018), www.lawbooks.ie. Price: €160 (incl VAT)

Eamon Hall and Rory O'Connor are both eminent lawyers and founder members of the Faculty of Notaries Public in Ireland. Eamon is a former chief solicitor of Eir. Rory was formerly the law agent and general counsel of the AIB group. Michael V O'Mahony (past-president of the Law Society) has brought his editing skills to bear on the work.

The authors address the evolution of the role of the notary, from Roman times right up to the modern era. Their chief focus, however, is to outline both the role and requirements of the modern notary, which, like all legal practitioners, are heavily influenced by EU law, international conventions, and Government regulation.

Separate chapters deal with data protection law, compliance with money-laundering regulations, electronic commerce, and compliance with company law generally – all issues that heavily influence the role of the modern notary.

Other chapters deal with specialist topics, such as bills of exchange and inter-country adoptions. Certainly, when notarising a document, one would be well advised to review the law and content of the relevant chapters in




this work that deal with these topics. I found the chapter on the power of attorney very useful.

Of particular interest to the notary is the drafting of notarial certificates – a topic that

is set out extensively in the seventh schedule to the book – and an essential skill for any notary. Hall and O'Connor's book underlines the fundamental importance to the notary of authenticating the *execution* of a document, as opposed to authenticating the content of the document itself. One must always differentiate between the extent of the work required to authenticate the execution of a document, separate to authenticating its content.

This book is an essential tool for the notary and trainee notary. It is a work of seminal importance and is set to become the reference manual for all notaries. Quite apart from appealing to notaries, it will also prove a valuable tool to commercial lawyers, given the inclusion of chapters on commercial law matters, data protection law, European law and company law.

The authors are to be commended for producing such a comprehensive work, which covers all aspects of notarial law and practice. I strongly recommend it. 

Tom Marren is a partner and notary public at Reddy Charlton, Solicitors.