

McShanes Solicitors celebrate 50th anniversary

Advertorial
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McShanes Solicitors, one of the leading law firms in Northern Ireland, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The local law firm, with offices in Newry and Killeel, recently marked the massive milestone with a dinner in Canal Court Hotel for current and former staff.

After the event, we spoke to Rory McShane, Founder and Partner at McShanes Solicitors.

Rory speaks of his delight at reaching such an impressive milestone and being well-established in Armagh, Newry, Mourne and Down, pointing to what he describes as the "tremendous support from the local community".

When Rory opened his law firm's doors in 1973, things were a little different than today.

The song, 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak



Past staff arrive for the 50th anniversary celebrations. INNR2904

Tree' by Tony Orlando and Dawn, spent a month at the top of the UK Charts.

The UK Prime Minister was Edward Heath, a pint of milk cost just 6p and a gallon of petrol cost 39p.

The average house price in the UK was a mere £9,900.

Returning to those early days, Rory says that after getting his first practising certificate in June 1973, he quickly set up his own legal firm.

A month later – in July

1973 – his first office officially opened its doors at 76 Hill Street, Newry.

A couple of years later, in April 1977, Rory moved his young business to 34 Hill Street in Newry, where its HQ remains today, along with an office in Killeel.

Reflecting on how far the business has come, Rory pinpoints relationship-building with clients as a critical ingredient to the firm's success.

"We focus on the needs of each client and give that client 100% attention," he explains.

"Our success in this regard is demonstrated by the repeat business we get from clients and their families.

"McShanes has become a generational firm, parents, children and grandchildren," he adds.

Rory believes McShanes Solicitors has thrived for the last five decades thanks to its ability to provide services across various legal practice areas; commercial property, criminal defence, domestic property, family law, personal injury litigation, probate and wills.

He explains, "We have



McShanes Solicitors celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the Canal Court Hotel. Rory McShane, Aoife McShane

and staff and John McParland. INNR2901



Rosetta Hughes, Eimear Kane, Rory & Aoife McShane, Millicent Tate.

solicitors with expertise in all relevant areas who can provide a comprehensive service.

"We can practice in

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which is attractive to clients who need representation in both jurisdictions," Rory

adds.

Over the last five decades, Rory and his team have adapted to various game-changing and technological developments.

"When the practice began, the office staff were using typewriters," he remembers.

"The photocopying machines were totally inadequate compared to what is available today," Rory insists.

And it's this ability to adapt that has helped the local law firm to continue to thrive.

"We moved from typewriters to computers, and as the technology moved forward, McShanes moved with the times and have

modernised our systems as and when required," he continues.

But technology developments weren't without difficulties; cybersecurity and data protection remain the top priority.

"Email is vulnerable, and ironically fax machines have now come back into vogue," Rory says.

"We have invested heavily in our case management system and cyber protection."

Reflecting on the last 50 years representing the local community, Rory says some cases stand out, including representing Newry and Mourne Council to purchase Newry Canal.

"We have also acted

in some significant libel cases, including acting on behalf of Crossmaglen Rangers' Trustees whom Newsgroup newspapers had libelled," he continues.

"We have also had considerable success in achieving high-level compensation awards for people injured in road traffic and workplace accidents in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, achieving millions of pounds and euros in compensation for clients," he adds.

Over the last fifty years, McShanes Solicitors has quietly been supporting local charities Newry Gateway Club and Head Injury Support on a pro bono basis, as well as supporting



Sheena Waddell, Catherine Fegan, Rory McShane and Maureen Fegan.

Other staff members have been with the firm for 25 years and upwards.

Rory continues, "We believe this demonstrates that we have nurtured a strong team spirit, and we are very grateful to the staff who have worked for us diligently over many years."

"Without our staff, the firm would not be in its current successful position."

Now in the firm's 50th year, Rory's already planning for the firm's future.

Indeed, he describes McShanes Solicitors in one phrase: "Taking care of things".

A source of immense pride for Rory is that his daughter, Aoife McShane, now leads the team as the Managing Partner and will be taking care of things.

"Going forward the firm has to adapt to the changing environment and be able to provide legal services and communicate with clients in a way that is appropriate to the times we live in," Aoife comments.

"We have embraced the use of social media, which we find is a great way to communicate with our clients and also for attracting new business."

"We continue to invest in our case management system and digital dictation systems," Aoife continues.

"I have no doubt going forward that the team at McShanes will successfully face the challenges that lie ahead."

"Millicent Tate heads up our Property and Probate departments, together with Rosetta Hughes."

"Eimear Kane and I deal with all Criminal, Family Law and Litigation cases. We have strong secretarial support."

Aoife adds, "I am proud to continue to grow McShanes Solicitors so that we continue to be one of the leading law firms in Northern Ireland."

To find out more about McShanes Solicitors, visit: www.mcshaneandco.com

'We focus on the needs of each client and give that client 100% attention': Rory McShane, founder & partner, McShanes Solicitors



Eimear Kane, Millicent Tate, Rory & Aoife McShane and Rosetta Hughes.