Perceptions of Restorative Justice in Ireland: The Challenges of the Way Forward

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Summary: The understanding of restorative justice (RJ) among legal practitioners in the modern Irish criminal justice system is explored, beginning with a definition of the meaning of RJ, its relevance among current legal practitioners and its prevalence in Ireland. The outcomes from a brief survey on RJ among legal practitioners are reviewed. This paper considers the potential of RJ in the mainstream criminal justice system and concludes by offering suggestions as to how RJ might be incorporated and developed.

Keywords: Restorative justice, Ireland, Courts, sentencing, offenders, crime, prison, victims, reparation, victim–offender mediation, Nenagh Reparation Project, RJS Tallaght.