

History of Round Hall / Thomson Reuters in Ireland

1980 The formation of The Round Hall Press, taking its name from the Round Hall of the Four Courts in Dublin, establishes itself as the legal imprint of Irish Academic Press. Comprising one director, one marketing executive and an extensive network of freelance law reporters drawn from the junior bar, it is well established to take position as Ireland's leading law publisher.

1981 Sees the publication of the first issue of *Irish Law Reports Monthly*. Its instant popularity confirms its authority as the leading and most up-to-date reference source on judgments emanating from the superior courts in Ireland.

1983 Builds on the success of key titles and sees the launch of *Irish Law Times* and the *Irish Law Reports Monthly Digest*.

Both ILRM and ILT have a lineage going back to 1865, when the *Irish Law Times* and the *Irish Law Times Reports* were first published by Iona Press and were still publishing until its acquisition by Round Hall. The company reinforces its status and reputation with the appointment of the eminent Mr Justice Brian Walsh and Sir James Comyn to the editorial board.

(The full *Irish Law Times Reports* (1871-1980), ILRM and ILT archives are available on Westlaw Ireland.)

Encouraged by the success of ILRM and by the enthusiasm of senior members of the Bar, new titles were quickly introduced: books on Family Law, Larceny, and Land Registry soon followed and our first journal, *Irish Law Times & Solicitors' Journal* (new series) was launched in 1983.

1984 Sweet & Maxwell launch their flagship looseleaf *Irish Current Law Statutes Annotated*, establishing their commitment to be the leading provider of information to the Irish legal profession.

The Round Hall Press: suitors in the 10-year-period, 1985 to 1995

The prestigious *Annual Review of Irish Law* was launched in 1986 and the Employment Law Reports Case Series followed in 1990. Round Hall Press had also entered into agreement with Jurist Publications to publish the *Irish Jurist*.

All of this made Round Hall Press a very attractive proposition.

A need to expand

In the early 1990s those involved in the business began to experience a sense of stagnation and felt a need to develop, expand and diversify. But a lack of resources, in the form of expertise and cash flow, were hampering this.

1995 In the Autumn Sweet & Maxwell acquired the titles and assets of The Round Hall Press and the legal journals publisher, Brehon Publishing. With this merger, a new brand name, Round Hall Sweet & Maxwell, was born and Round Hall becomes Ireland's largest law publisher.

1998 Round Hall Professional Publishing is launched - a new information service for Irish business that delivers up-to-date practical information on key areas of regulation and best practice.

1999 Round Hall's portfolio now comprises of 20 journals and a comprehensive and constantly expanding booklist. A new Round Hall looseleaf service for practitioners guarantees continuous updates in all core areas of law. Results - annual revenue has almost trebled, number of staff increased from 15 to 24, thereby necessitating a move from Ormond Quay, Dublin, to new premises in the heart of prestigious Georgian Dublin.

2000 Round Hall moves into new premises at 43 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

2002–2007 Rapid revenue growth and proactive commissioning during The Celtic Tiger Years establishing Round Hall as the market leader in Irish legal publishing in Ireland.

2002 Westlaw IE Current Awareness is launched.

2003 Case materials from the ILRM and ELR, Annotated Legislation and the Irish Law Times are added to Westlaw Ireland.

2004 sees the very first Round Hall Professional Development Conference which was held in association with the Department of Law at Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier St. The 1st Annual Employment Law Conference is a great success. (Other successful conferences were commissioned in subsequent years on topics such as Planning, Family and Judicial Review and held in venues such as Distillery Building, Law Library.)

2004: Launch of Westlaw IE: online offering from Round Hall.

2006 Adding of legal journals and consolidated legislation to Phase 2 of Westlaw Ireland.

2008 The Thomson Corporation and Reuters Group PLC combine to form Thomson Reuters.

2008 Recession hit the Irish economy very hard in September 2008, resulting in a rapid decline in revenues from 2008 to 2011 as the legal profession are badly hit by the banking crisis and downturn in the property market.

2011 Migration of the Westlaw IE content - Irish journals, cases, legislation, court rules and current awareness - on to the MAF platform. A huge undertaking completed in one year and customers happy with the improved content and functionality.

2012–2013: Steady growth of online revenue: Westlaw IE.

2013 Thomson Reuters acquires Practical Law Company.

A new Commentary books tab and three book titles added to Westlaw Ireland.

2015 Within two years of adding the new books tab, there are now 27 Commentary book titles available on Westlaw Ireland. 14 titles on ProView App.

2016 Relaunch of Westlaw Ireland books home page so that similar in look and feel to Westlaw UK books.

2017 Due to the end of office lease, the Thomson Reuters Legal team in Ireland vacate the Georgian building at 43 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, and move across the road to Glandore Serviced offices at Fitzwilliam Hall.

2018 Thomson Reuters Ireland Limited split following the sale and separation from Thomson Reuters of the Financial & Risk division which became Refinitiv, and subsequently London Stock Exchange Group.

The reinstated Thomson Reuters (Professional) Ireland Limited now becomes the new legal entity of TR Legal in Ireland.

2019 Further growth of the Irish business and the move in January 2019 to a new fitted out modern Thomson Reuters office location at Third Floor, 12/13 Exchange Place, International Financial Services Centre, Dublin 1, teaming up with colleagues in Reuters.