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Mr Justice Nial Fennelly has made a distinguished contribution to law in Ireland and beyond, so it is fitting that this is marked by a collection of 25 essays from leading judges, practitioners and academics. Amongst his many achievements, Mr Justice Fennelly was the first Irish lawyer to be appointed Advocate-General of the European Court of Justice in 1995, while he later served as a judge of the Supreme Court from 2000 to 2014. The essays gathered in this book reflect his role in shaping both Irish and European law, and the interaction between these sources of law.

Part I of the collection contains four essays devoted to the European Union (EU or Union) courts. Appropriately, these are authored by several judges who have served on the EU courts, including a former Advocate-General. These essays consider the way in which the EU courts have had to adapt over time to the changing remit of the Union. The growth in its membership, combined with the expansion in the scope of EU law, have placed recurrent challenges on the EU court system. In practical terms, this is witnessed in the accelerating volume of cases brought to the courts and the difficulty in handling these without undue delay. As discussed by Vassilios Skouris (President of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU)), this has led to the creation of additional forums, namely the General Court and the Civil Service Tribunal. Judge Kieran Bradley provides an insightful contribution on the relationship between these courts. While often assumed to be hierarchical in nature, he identifies the limited formal provisions in this regard. The Treaties do not lay down a general rule of vertical precedent, so the smooth functioning of the relationship between, in particular, the General Court and the Court of Justice depends upon cooperation with a view to ensuring a harmonious interpretation of the law. This is reminiscent of the relationship between the CJEU and national courts, and a salient topic given the heated debate amongst EU judges on current proposals for reform of the courts.

Part II of the collection examines a selection of issues in EU Law, while Part III is focused on questions of Irish Law. Part IV provides a synthesis, considering various issues from both national and supranational perspectives. It is impossible to do justice in a short review to the array of essays found in these sections, covering diverse areas of law, such as financial regulation, patent law, competition law, public procurement and evidence. Many of the contributions draw upon the opinions and judgments of Mr Justice Fennelly and, in so doing, they provide an illustration of how he combined diverse sources of law to enrich legal reasoning and the interpretation of general principles of law. For example, several authors (Mr Justice O’Donnell and Catherine Donnelly) draw attention to *Mallack v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform*. This case concerned a decision to refuse an application for naturalisation by a Syrian national in Ireland without any reasons being provided for that decision. Mr Justice Fennelly delivered the judgment for the Supreme Court, developing the idea of a duty to give reasons in public decision-making. While the case at hand did not directly impinge upon the scope of EU law, his reasoning drew upon the existence of an equivalent duty within EU administrative law. In a similar vein, Cathryn Costello considers the law relating to deporting the third country national parents of child citizens in the light of Mr Justice Fennelly’s dissenting opinion in *Lobe and Osayande v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform*. This provided another instance of crafting domestic law in the light of evolutions in European law. This essay illustrates both the complexity and the opportunities that arise from legal pluralism. In considering the situation of such children, it is necessary for lawyers to be nimble in weaving together the multiple sources of law stemming from the EU and the Council of Europe, alongside domestic protection of constitutional rights.

The growing interaction between the national and supranational legal orders in Europe resonates throughout this collection. The struggles involved in reconciling the national constitutional order with

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Europeanisation are revisited in essays on the Crotty\(^3\) and Pringle\(^4\) cases by Mr Justice Keane and Mr Justice Geoghegan. Mr Justice Clarke considers the implications for common law and civil law traditions given the pressures of convergence deriving from the EU and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).\(^5\) Mr Justice MacMenamin focuses on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights,\(^6\) which opens a new front in the potential combination of national law and EU law in the iteration of fundamental human rights. His essay provides a reminder of the lessons that EU law may derive from national experiences, in this case a compelling comparison of the drafting of the social policy principles in the Irish Constitution and the socio-economic provisions found in the Charter. Finally, Diarmuid Rossa Phelan reminds us that it is not merely legal systems that exchange within Europe. He scrutinises the position of judges who shift between national and European courts and the accompanying oaths of allegiance that may be sworn to different legal orders. This reflection on the potential tensions that could arise between fealty to national or supranational interests exposes a personal dimension to integration of legal systems that is rarely considered.

In conclusion, this collection boasts an impressive set of high profile authors who offer a rich variety of insights into the challenges for law of European integration. In the course of the book, there are many examples offered of the valued contribution made to this process by Mr Justice Fennelly.

\(^3\) Crotty v An Taoiseach [1987] IR 713.
\(^5\) 213 UNTS 221.