

The extra award categories enlarge the students' awareness of all aspects of a production, and not just the performances on stage.

"It serves to underline how important every job within the industry really is, and how those behind-the-scenes-functions become so vital to the overall success of any artistic endeavour," he

mark says: "There is a sense that it is okay to be shy or an introvert in animation, a business where people can express themselves through their art, where they can work happily behind the scenes." Animation is performance, but on a different level to film or television. "With film and TV, there are a number of takes, but we repeat the process over

JOB of the WEEK

Job: It's a rewarding healthcare role which identifies hearing problems in newborns. Northgate Public Services wants to appoint a newborn hearing local manager for Cork and Kerry.

Duties: You will lead a team of 13 specialists delivering a screening service to newborn babies in Cork University Maternity Hospital and Kerry General Hospital.

Qualifications: You will be self-motivated, highly organised and also be a good communicator.

You will also be focused on delivering a high-quality, safe service to newborn babies and their parents.

Applications: Check out www.northgate-is.com/publicservices, or log on to tinyurl.com/oyvq5zt for more details.

Legal firm Ronan Daly Jermyn backs Cork Chamber's excellent message

Joe Dermody

Cork companies' shared commitment to excellence is driving recovery in the local economy, says Richard Martin, managing partner with Ronan Daly Jermyn solicitors, title sponsor of today's Cork Chamber dinner in City Hall.

RDJ is itself enjoying a sustained period of excellence, having just opened a Dublin office in the IFSC Harbourmaster Place. The Cork firm also has offices in Galway and London. With the addition of 43 staff in the past 18 months, RDJ has become one of the country's top-ten largest law firms. It now employs 180 people.

"The theme of the Chamber dinner is a celebration of Cork's excellence on a local, national, and global stage," said Mr Martin. "We are very conscious of the excellent service provided by companies in Cork across a wide range of goods and services.

"People's growing awareness of the availability of excellence is already helping to drive recovery in the region's economy." RDJ's growth is testament to that nascent recovery. While five or six years ago, the practice would have dealt with debt- and insolvency and restructuring-related litigation, its more recent growth has been driven by corporate, taxation and property activities.

The company's decision to expand its Dublin presence is in response to its corporate clients in Cork and Galway who asked for an office in the capital, a hub from which they could seek legal guidance on their international transactions.

Jamie Olden is the partner in charge

of the Dublin office. His experience includes commercial litigation and professional indemnity defence work. He is joined by ten experienced solicitors, offering litigation, property, insolvency and restructuring, corporate and commercial advice.

While RDJ Dublin is to be run as an independent office, it will use its Cork partners' expertise in areas such as tax and IT. New recruits include former IBRC chief legal officer, Bryan McCarthy, a liquidation specialist who previously worked with solicitors, Maples, in the Cayman Islands.

Evan McCarthy joins as a partner in commercial property and banking, having previously held a senior property role with NAMA. "An increasing amount of our work is with clients with branches in Dublin and international operations for which our London office is useful," said Mr Martin. "Our Dublin office offers the full range of services; it is not just a brass plate.

"We have been operating out of Dublin since October. Opening the new office is a direct response to the demands of our clients. What has changed in the last five or six years is that we have kept growing, and a bigger proportion of our work is now coming from bigger international clients, notably in the banking and insurance sector.

"A lot of our clients have operations all across Ireland, but ownership might be based outside the country. Or, their sector may be very much Dublin-based, which is the case with the insurance industry." Mr Martin added that many institutions like to have instant access to lawyers based in their locality. This has been a key part of the success of RDJ's

Cork and Galway offices.

The encouraging shift in recent years — in terms of measuring growth in the local economy — is that many of these local clients have been expanding into overseas markets. These are the clients who have been asking RDJ to open a Dublin office.

Nonetheless, the practice remains true to its Cork origins. Some 140 of RDJ's 180 staff are in Cork. The Galway office, opened in 2007, now has 35 staff. Dublin has 14 lawyers. The London office has one staff member, Uilliam Ó Lorcáin.

The regional offices give RDJ advantages from a cost perspective. These offices are also a useful recruitment tool in attracting experienced Irish lawyers back home to Ireland from overseas.

"Now that the Irish economy is picking up, many lawyers want to return home from abroad," said Mr Martin.

"We've recruited some really experienced people who wanted to return to Cork, some from Dublin, others from London or Sydney."

RDJ also offers training to college students, and can have up to 24 trainees at any given time. It has four interns in its Cork office.



Richard Martin, who is managing partner, Ronan Daly Jermyn solicitors.