Leanna Byrne, Backlog building at new Court of Appeal, The Sunday Business Post, Dec. 28, 2014, quoting Tillman
Backlog building at new Court of Appeal

A legal expert has claimed that the new Court of Appeal will be unable to clear the backlog of cases it was established to tackle unless it significantly improves its productivity.

Seth Barrett Tillman, a law lecturer at Maynooth University in Co Kildare, said the court is now more behind on its list than it was on the day it opened.

"If the new court persists at deciding its cases at this rate, it will never be in a position to permanently solve the backlog, as it will only fall further and further behind, said Tillman."

"I expect and hope that it will pick up its pace. But I have no good information leading me to suspect that its productivity will improve or not."

"Instead, the new court may just hobble along at its current rate of decision-making, he added."

The Court of Appeal has issued a total of five judgments since it opened in October.

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The court was established to act as an interim court between the High Court and the Supreme Court.

On its establishment, some 258 appeals ready for hearing were transferred from the Supreme Court to the new court, resulting in a 42 per cent decrease in the Supreme Court's case load.