



**Joseph A. Aquino has been honored by
The Belfast International Homecoming
and awarded “The Ambassador of Belfast”
medal at a ceremony at Belfast City Hall**



The Belfast International Homecoming has awarded Joseph A. Aquino “The Ambassador of Belfast” medal at a ceremony at Belfast City Hall, for his distinct role as International Business Leader.

Mr. Aquino has offices in New York City (where he resides), Belfast, and London. He is involved in the redevelopment of Belfast’s Downtown City Hall District, which offers an exceptional variety of development opportunities.



“Belfast has modeled itself after Boston, with its first-class universities such as Queen’s and Ulster,” Aquino explains. “The metro area has a huge student population that’s underserved at the moment, with plenty of opportunities to address that market.

“We also see tremendous need in the office market. More than 600,000 tenants are waiting for future developments to occupy. PricewaterhouseCoopers just secured 234,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space, and are ready to take possession in the first quarter of 2020.”

Rents in Belfast are increasing slowly, Aquino adds. Current commercial rents top out at £22 pounds per sq. ft., compared to Dublin's top rate of £64 pounds per sq. ft.



“We see tremendous upside in all real estate sections in this market, including hospitality,” Mr. Aquino concludes.

“I would compare Belfast to the Las Vegas of 25 years ago. There is nothing but opportunity, with a few super blocks near City Hall that could become available.”