# Aoife O’Connor

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## **Education**

2007 – 2012 **Leaving Certificate: 545/600 points** Pobail Scoil Chorca Dhuibhne, Co. Kerry

2012 – 2013 **Bachelor of Civil Law and Irish** University College Cork

Third Year Results: **University of Montana, overall grade: A**

Alternative Dispute Resolution: A, Federal Indian Law: A, Public International Law: B, Judicial Clinic: Distinction

Second Year Results: ***First Class Honours* Rank: 2nd**

Law of Property: 70% Law of Tort: 74% Law of European Union: 66% Legal skills-Statutory Interpretation: A Úsáid agus Cruinneas na Gaeilge (Use and Accuracy of the Irish Language): 73% Dialanna na Gaeilge (A Study of Irish Diaries): 80% An Litríocht Bhéil agus an Gearrscéal Liteartha (Oral Literature and the Short Story): 69% Casanna Dlí (Case law and the Irish Language): 62%

First Year Results: ***Second Class Honours Grade 1* Rank: 3rd**

Introduction to Legal Systems: 70% Contract Law: 67% Criminal Law: 66% Dlí Bunreachtúl (Constitutional Law): 65% Bunreacht na hEireann an Leagan Gaeilge (Bunreacht na hEireann: a study of the Irish text): 73% Bunstaidéir ar Theanga agus Cultúr na Gaeilge (Irish language and literature): 67%

**Rank**: Top 15 students of all University College Cork’s BCL programs

## **Relevant Work Experience**

June 2015-August 2015 (Full Time) *Intern* **Boone Karlberg P.C., Missoula MT, U.S.A**

* Given complex legal questions to analyse and evaluate, carried out research using online U.S. databases, text books and internal files, wrote memoranda later incorporated into trial motions, met with attorneys frequently to discuss projects, attended court cases, sat in on meeting with clients.
* Provided with training regime, expected to carry out multiple projects simultaneously and meet deadlines, consistently mentored on my writing and drafting skills, developed practical understanding of U.S. legal system both in law firm and court room setting.

February 2015 (Full Time) *Intern* **Office of the Attorney General, Dublin**

* Carried out legal research, wrote memoranda, provided personal analysis to Parliamentary Counsel, recorded consultations in the form of summarized notes and minutes, observed meetings and court cases.
* Experience dealing with many areas of public law, EU law and financial services. Commercial awareness broadened, practical understanding of EU law achieved, familiarity with legal terminology, language and style, problem solving skills advanced, refined knowledge of a broad range of legal databases.

September 2014 – December 2014 (Part time) *Intern* **Federal District Court for the District of Montana**

* Completed several projects for Chambers, including bench memorandums and findings & recommendations, carried out research for supervising clerks, attended trials and conferences.
* Analytical, evaluative and argumentative skills advanced through the writing of bench memorandums, technical skills learned through the use of online data bases, excellent research skills developed examining case law, secondary sources and text books, ethical and professional standards observed at all times.

June 2013 – January 2014 (Part time) *Legal Assistant* **Frank O’Connor & Co Solicitors, Dingle, Co. Kerry**

* Organised files, updated wills register, prepared documents for Property Registration Authority, replied to emails and faxes, ran errands.
* Client service skills developed through answering phones, greeting clients, arranging appointments and communicating messages to co-workers and clients.
* Adapted to working in a busy office environment, learned valuable understanding of confidentiality, diligence and attention to detail.

Legal Skills:

* Oral advocacy, argumentation, problem solving and analytical skills developed through participation in Moot Court and debating competitions.
* Experience co-operating, compromising and mediating with others acquired through completion of legal skills group project. Project presented through the medium of Irish demonstrating comprehensive multilingual and presentation skills.
* Ability to deal with complex factual materials and proficiency in problem solving acquired through participation in the University of Montana’s mediation programme.
* Ability to access and evaluate information using online legal data bases such as Westlaw.ie, Bailii.org, Justis.com, Lexisnexis.com, [westlaw.ie](http://westlaw.ie), [eur-lex.europa.eu](http://eur-lex.europa.eu) and US equivalent Westlaw.com.
* Fluent in Irish and high level of proficiency in Spanish.
* Client service, practical research, analysis and writing skills formed through internships at Boone Karlberg, the Attorney General’s Office, the Federal District Court of Montana and with local practitioner.

**Other Work Experience**

September 2014 – December 2014, *Irish Teacher* **Irish Department University of Montana, Missoula MT**

* Responsible for the teaching of grammar, vocab and conversational Irish to undergraduate students in the University of Montana, competent communication skills required to explain material in a variety of ways to students of diverse learning capacities.
* Creativity and presentation skills developed planning lessons and motivating students, patience, confidence and collaborative skills greatly improved through teaching and communicating with pupils.

June 2013 – August 2013, *Au Pairing, Child Minder and English Teacher* **Marimar and Txomin Loinaz, Gipuzkua, Zarautz, El País Baquo**

* Entrusted with three children, aged 8, 6 and 2, five days a week while parents were at work, collected children from school, made their lunch, brought them to activities, babysat, taught the eldest boys English.
* Developed excellent communication skills interacting, listening and reasoning with the parents and children through Spanish, high level of competency in Spanish obtained.

**Interests and Achievements**

**Academic:**

* Awarded the title of College Scholar by UCC, nominated for 2014 Arthur Cox Prize and winner of “Brave New World Prize” at the University of Montana’s mediation awards.

**UCC Law Society:**

* Public Relations Officer for UCC Law Society.
* Created posters, designed and edited society’s annual magazine, successfully sought sponsorship, promoted large scale events such as the Society’s annual Careers Fair and Law Conference.

**UCC Hispanic Society and an Cumann Drámaíochta**

* First year Representative for UCC Hispanic Society, re-elected as Second Year Rep.
* Involved in the organisation of fundraisers, social events and informative presentations on international issues.
* Currently Vice Auditor of an Cumann Drámaíochta
* Assist in the selection of plays, organise auditions, rehearsals and production nights. Oversee the translation of scripts and the sale of tickets. Delegate tasks such as set production, costume design, makeup and lighting. Arrange inter varsity competitions and collaborative events.

### Mentoring:

* UCC Peer Supporter to first year Law and Irish students in 2013.
* Suas Literacy Support Mentor to secondary students in 2015.

**Debating, Moot Court and Dáil na nÓg:**

* Participated in UCC’s General Moot Court competition and Bréag Cúirt Uí Dhálaigh.
* Competed in various intervarsity debating competitions.
* Former member of political youth organisation Dáil na nÓg, involved in the organisation of a Citizens Jury and Youth Elections for our local branch, acted as National Chairperson for annual conference in Croke Park.

## **References**

Sean Ó Conaill, Lecturer, Law Department, University College Cork.

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