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**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

An Irish and American citizen, I am determined to utilise my world-class education from the University of Dublin Trinity College Law School and University of Pittsburgh Honors College to pursue a career in law in Ireland. Undertaken employment and internships, in conjunction with academic research and writing, further develop my transferable skills set, interdisciplinary professional experience, detail-orientation and drive to obtain employment in the legal profession.

**EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2013-2017: **The University of Dublin Trinity College (TCD)**

**LL.B. in Law candidate Year 1**: II:1 (64%) **Year 2**:II:1 (63%)

2009-2013: **The University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) Honors College**

**Bachelor of Philosophy Degree (honours thesis),** Summa Cum Laude, **GPA: 3.86**

**Majors:** Political Science & Religious Studies

**Minor:** French Language **Certificate:** European Union Studies

2005-2009: **Madison West High School,** High School Diploma**, GPA: 3.78**

National Honours Society, French & Latin Honours Societies, Senior Advisor, Varsity swim team.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Summer & December 2015, January 2016: **Steve’s Liquor Store Inc. Employee ($11 per hour)**

I worked for Wayne Crokus and functioned administrative and customer service duties such as helping customers by lending expertise on wines and beers, re-stocking the floor and cleaning.

June-July 2015: **Metcalfe’s Market Meat Department Employee ($10 per hour)**

I engaged a high level of customer service, ensuring expedience and quality of produce for customers. Prepared products daily and performed tasks to meet health code standard.

May-September 2013: **Wisconsin National Primate Research Center Student Hourly Laboratory Technician ($11 per hour)**

I worked forty-hour weeks in Dr. Robert Shapiro’s (PhD) lab. Underwent mandatory security checks and signed confidentiality agreements. I compiled necessary paper work to schedule and finish projects, coordinated ongoing research assignments with other labs and hospitals, and conducted active research projects. The experience taught me the level of patience, communication and detail needed to contribute in multidisciplinary team environments.

**INTERN EXPERIENCE**

September 2015-Present: **Irish Innocence Project Caseworker**

Under direction from my case manager Ed Mathews (LLB, LLM), I, as a caseworker, serve as co-legal counsel for clients. I organise prison visits and conduct client meetings, coordinate research, and formulate legal strategies. I also help with fundraising opportunities for the non-profit.

2008-2010, Summer 2014: **University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School Intern**

The first high school volunteer for the Wisconsin Innocence Project, I mainly worked under Director Keith Findley (JD). Though many responsibilities were administrative, I also screened and researched potential cases with law students, attended legal strategy meetings and court sessions and researched statewide police and sheriff departments.

**MAJOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

September 2015-Present: **Correspondent for the Trinity Bull, TCD**

I am a politics and economics correspondent for the campus newspaper.

September 2015-Present: **Trinity Singers’ Librarian**

A member of Trinity Singers’ administrative staff, I help coordinate concerts, official functions and competitions. I also organise and print music for weekly rehearsals.

September 2011-April 2013: **Editor for the Pitt Political Review**

As editor of the non-partisan, Honors College student publication, I reviewed articles ensuring the writing and research met our high standard. Publications are accepted in the Library of Congress.

September 2011-April 2012: **Pitt Honors College Ambassador Volunteer**

Under Mike Giazzoni I phoned potential students to the Honors College and introduced Chancellor Scholar candidates and their parents to the university, answering any questions.

September 2009-April 2011: **Pitt Mock Trial**

Led by Jen Satler (JD), I played character and expert witnesses for Pitt’s nationally ranked Mock Trial team at cross-country competitions. I also helped devise team strategies and tactics.

September 2008-June 2009: **President of Young Democrats Society**

I led the Young Democrats society during my senior high school year and helped organize politically motivated students to volunteer in the presidential campaign.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2011-2012: Brackenridge Research Scholarships:

I received three Pitt Honors College interdisciplinary academic scholarships for successful original research proposals and demonstrated breadth and depth of academic achievement and interest. Was one of 70 recipients for the summer programmes, one of 30 for the autumn. Researched and analysed American constitutional, and EU, law regarding immigration policy with advisor Professor Lisa Nelson (JD, PhD).

2010: Academic Independent Study:

I conducted original research on the early evolution of the Christian Church with Pitt’s Religious Studies department and advisor Professor David Brumble (PhD). I focused on the institution’s foundation, philosophical developments and influential persons, ie. Origen and Theodosius II.

**PUBLICATIONS**

2015-present: Five article publications with Trinity Bull in October and December 2015.

“Illegality in Action: A Comparative Analysis of the US’ Federal and the EU’s evolving political systems regarding Immigration Policy and Human Rights Law” (Published thesis). University of Pittsburgh, 2013. Available at <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/18545/1/AbbottCJM_ETD2013Pitt.pdf>

**OTHER SKILLS**

**Languages:** Native English.Excellent French.Limited Latin.

**Computer Skills:** My computer skills are very good. I can type 100 words per minute and use my laptop daily for work and socialising. I have extensive knowledge of, and experience working with, Macintosh and PC Operating Systems, Microsoft Office, GMAIL, Internet, and STATA programing. I also have experience using professional and academic search engines.

**Driving:** Full, clean driving license.

**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

2015-present: **American Bar Association (ABA)**

2012-present: **Golden Key International Honors Society**

2011-2013: **C.F. Reynolds Medical Historical Society Student Member**

2010-present: **National Society of Collegiate Scholars**

2008-present: **National Society of High School Scholars**

**PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE**

February 2014: **Trinity College Dublin Law Student Colloquium**

April 2013: “**Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Pitt**

April 2013: Selected to present at: **Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union**

**SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

November 2014: **International Sligo Choir Competition Winner** – Trinity Singers Choir

2009- 2013: **Recipient of University of Pittsburgh Anderson Diehl Scholarship**

2009-2013: **Dean’s Honour List** (achieved minimum GPA of 3.5 all eight terms at Pitt)

Autumn 2012: **Autumn Brackenridge Undergraduate Fellowship Award**

Summer 2011 & 2012: **Brackenridge Undergraduate Fellowship Award**

**OTHER INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Music:**

Music is important for my peace of mind. Involved with the Trinity Singers’ administration and a Tenor 2 in the co-ed choir, I help organise concerts and weekly rehearsals. I also sang Tenor 2 in the Pitt Overtones in 2010 and 2011.

**Travel:**

Travelling is a personal passion, and I have travelled Ireland and Europe extensively. Whether with university societies, or for leisure, I go on numerous national and international trips per year.

**Sport:**

A former high school varsity swimmer and rugby player, I now enjoy exercise to stay fit. Tennis and running are current sports of choice, though I also enjoy core and lifting sessions at the gym.

**VOLUNTEERING**

**2013-Present**: Trinity FLAC member. Volunteer at free legal advise workshops for three years.

**2015:** Canvassed and partook in TCD campus events to raise awareness for marriage equality.

**2010**: I weekly engaged local Pittsburgh communities via canvassing and phone banking for Joe Sestak (D-PA) Campaign for Senate.

**2009**: Senior Advisor for first year high school students.

**2007** **–** **2009**: High School Academic Tutor.

**2008**: Canvassed and phone banked for Barack Obama (D-Il) for President campaign.

**REFEREES**

**Professor Des Ryan** **Ms Debrah Neff** **Wayne Crokus**

Academic Referee Character Reference Employer

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