CONNOR P. CASSIDY

LLB |Barrister-at-Law |Counsel

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Professional Profile

Ambitious self-starter with a breadth of experience gained in both a corporate legal environment and in private practice as a barrister. I am now keen to advance my career by re-qualifying as a commercial solicitor, securing a position within a progressive firm which has a track record for excellence and professionalism. I am seeking a challenging role which is multi-jurisdictional and which will give me the opportunity to utilise and develop my skills whilst adding real value to the firm. My goal is to be recognised as a key member of a universally respected team, responsible for the delivery of top class legal services to an international client base.

Education & Qualifications

2011-2012 Institute of Professional Legal Studies – Bar Vocational Course – (Distinction) GPA 82.2 |Ranked 2nd in Year

Accounts (97), Company Law (81), Revenue (91), Wills (96) Family Law (83), County Court (83), Licensing (82), Criminal – Summary (81), Criminal – Indictment (78), Conveyancing (77), High Court (76), Employment Tribunals (72), Bar Exit (72) and Passes in all 22 competency based modules including Corporate Insolvency, Personal Insolvency & Chancery

2007-2010 Queen’s University Belfast – LLB Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) |Ranked Top 9 in Year| 68 GPA

2000-2007 St Malachy’s College Belfast

A-Levels: Business Studies (A), ICT (A), Geography (A)

GCSEs: 9 Grades A\*-B

Employment History

Barrister/Counsel – Independent Practice

September 2012-Present

* Broad range of experience in Civil Defence Litigation, advising and litigating in contractual disputes, personal injury actions, employment disputes, credit hire disputes, chancery actions and corporate/individual insolvency matters
* Excellent track record of building and maintaining client relationships developed through my experience of representing a variety of private and corporate clients, including major insurance companies such as AXA, Allianz, Aviva and NFU, as well as large multi-national chains such as ASDA Stores Ltd, Tesco Stores Ltd and B&Q PLC
* Act in an advisory capacity by carrying out research and providing legal opinions on a breadth of legal issues, often on areas of law I have had no previous experience of and thereafter litigating same in Court
* Extensive experience in the drafting of legal documents such as court pleadings, settlements, letters of claim, etc.
* Experience in training and assisting newly qualified Barristers through work shadowing
* Highly proficient in the use of legal research tools such as Lexis and Westlaw as well as the use of MS Office software
* Adept at exercising critical judgment and carrying out detailed analysis of complex legal issues
* Executive committee member of the Young Bar Association (members up to 7 years PQE), responsibilities included the organisation of CPD events and liaising with the Bar Council to promote and advance the interests of the Young Bar

Herbert Smith Freehills – Barrister

February 2015 - May 2015

* Appointed team-leader of the Capital team as part of a multi-billion pound rights issue dispute in which we acted for a large global bank, largely involved with the discovery stage of the litigation and assisting with the preparation of witness statements
* Responsible for the supervision of a team of legal assistants and qualified solicitors - this extended to conducting quality control on their work, providing ongoing training and disseminating updated instructions as required
* Prepared and updated a query log for the London team on an on-going basis which was then distributed among the Capital team
* Arranged and held regular weekly calls with the London team to update them on the progress of Belfast’s workload
* Under my leadership the Capital team was recognised as consistently producing the most output compared to any other team
* Responsibilities also included preparing and updating metrics on a daily basis so that the Belfast pace could be monitored with ease
* Developed a working knowledge of banking terminology and concepts within a short time

Citigroup Global Markets Ltd– Legal Negotiator

November 2010 – June 2011

* Negotiated Global Master Repurchase Agreements (as published by ICMA, the International Capital Market Association) on behalf of Citigroup within the EMEA region
* Had responsibility for drafting, executing and maintaining contracts with over 70 clients which included FTSE 500 companies and banks such as Barclays, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse and large multi-national hedge funds
* Extensive experience of developing and fostering relationships with external and internal stakeholders, such as the Business and Credit Risk teams as well as with in-house lawyers in London, New York & Hong Kong
* Was involved in an ongoing project to consolidate historic Agreements into a single source
* Experienced working in a high-pressure corporate environment where the work was multi-jurisdictional, often time critical and the ability to work with little to no supervision was essential

Achievements & Awards

* First Trust Bank sponsored Bar Advocacy Competition - 1st Place Winner 2013
* John P. B Maxwell Scholarship - 2nd highest overall mark in the Professional Bar Vocational Exams 2012
* Cleaver Fulton Rankin Solicitors Prize - 1st Place in Wills & Probate Exam 2012
* International Negotiation Competition (INC) – Ranked 5th Place in the world whilst representing the NI Bar 2012
* Benchers of the Bar of NI sponsored Advocacy Mock Trial Competition – 2nd Place 2012
* Graduated from Queen’s University Belfast ranking within the Top 9 academic performers in the degree of Law (LLB) 2010
* Employment Law Module at Queen’s University Belfast – Top Mark 2010
* Confronting Transnational Crime Module at Queen’s University Belfast – Top Mark 2010
* QUB Law Magazine Editorial team which won SMA (Student Media Awards) 2009 “Society Publication of the Year”

Appointments and Additional Information

* Young Bar Association Executive Committee and CPD Committee 2013-2014
* Participant of the Advocacy Inter-Disciplinary Training Programme 2011-2012
* Member of the QUB Law Society Magazine Editorial Team 2009-2010
* Member of the QUB Debating & Mooting Society 2008-2010
* Ran for QUB Law Society President 2009

Interests

* Passion for comedy, film, theatre, keeping fit and can speak basic German
* Enjoy travelling and in the past have spent time in Europe, the US and Asia including Singapore, Thailand and China
* Play 5-a-side football weekly and have played for the IPLS and Bar Football teams

References available on request