

David Wacks

Boraghy, Loughmourne, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan

Phone: 00353 (0) 87 2800885

E-Mail: wacksd@tcd.ie



Education:

2009 – 15 Colaiste Pobal Beal Atha Beithe – 550 points

I received 550 points. I studied 8 subjects - all at honours level.

2015 – 19 Trinity College Dublin – Law and Business – First-Class Honours

I was ranked 3rd overall in my year. In studying law, I was equipped with first-class research, compositional and analytical skills. With business, I gained considerable commercial awareness, teamwork, communication and management skills, including services management skills.

2019 – 20 FE-1 Examinations, Law Society of Ireland

I have passed all the FE-1 Exams: Criminal Law (70%), Contract Law (68%), Constitutional Law (66%), EU Law (66%), Property Law (63%), Company Law (61%), Law of Equity & Trusts (60%) and Tort Law (59%).

Experience:

Presiding Officer, Courts Service of Ireland – February 2020

- I worked as a Poll Clerk during 2016, 2018 and 2019 elections and I was promoted to work as a Presiding Officer for the February 2020 General Election.
- This position entailed assisting in the assembly of the polling booths, assisting voters with any queries, checking identification, coordinating with the Returning Officer and Gardaí.
- This role requires an individual who can follow procedures carefully to ensure that the integrity of the voting process is not compromised.

Legal Intern, Mason Hayes and Curran – June 2019

- I worked very closely with a litigation partner and had excellent practical and commercial experience in approaching client facing issues.
- I attended settlement talks and hearings at the Four Courts, attended client meetings/conference calls, drafted documents, memos and instructions for counsel, researched existing and incoming legislation, and completed administrative tasks as required.
- I learned the importance of taking and following instructions, applying my analytical skills to the tasks issued to me, and working with the team to address the client's query.
- By participating in an internship presentation challenge, I enhanced my teamwork, research, time management and communication skills, so much so that I was highly commended for my presentation.
- I also received comprehensive IT training, such as on using Key House and Microsoft programmes.

Legal Intern, Philip Lee – May 2019

- I worked closely with other trainees to complete written articles/guides and blogs in which we listened carefully to the partner's brief, researched the same, discussed and reviewed our work collectively, presented it to the partner and made any necessary changes.

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- This assignment demonstrated my ability to act as a team player and take and follow instructions carefully as well as improved my teamwork, presentation, communication and research skills.
- I conducted legal research in connection to various client enquiries and incoming legislation.
- I assisted the partner I was assigned to with various administrative requests.
- I also participated in a charity pro bono assignment and various networking events.
- This experience was influential on my decision to choose law as it showed me how important interpersonal skills are in the legal world outside of the drafting.
- It also demonstrated to me personally that I am a quick thinker and thrive in a fast-paced environment and that I can interact and network with clients very well.

Administration Assistant, Lakeland Dairies – July 2016 – January 2019 (part-time)

- I liaised with many persons on a daily basis from clients to management which led to me enhancing my communication skills; both oral and written.
- As administrative tasks were a central aspect of this role, I developed strong administrative skills, becoming both efficient and resourceful.
- I was responsible for dealing with customer complaints and received excellent feedback from management as to my assertive and effective handling of complaints.
- I was asked to contact customers and inform them of significant delivery delays and while customers were generally disappointed on hearing such news, I employed tactful communication skills to reaffirm our commitment to completing the order and demonstrating loyalty.
- From this experience, I also employed my negotiating skills in dealing with customers and this experience was certainly influential on my career decision.

Legal Intern, Coyle Kennedy Smyth Solicitors – August 2018

- I had direct exposure to client affairs, including attendance at meetings and conference calls.
- I assisted the partner with tasks issued to me, including completing administrative tasks and engaging in legal research.
- I received extensive training and learned about dictaphone use, file preparation and file management among other things.
- The key benefits included that I worked under the guidance of a partner, I gained an insight into the need to build and retain positive relationships, and I enhanced my research skills.
- Finally, I learned that excellent communication is crucial to the day-to-day work in a law firm. Ensuring that messages are transferred in a sensitive and simple manner to clients is vital.

Assurance Intern (International & Domestic Business), PwC – June – July 2017

- I assisted auditors with the preparation of client accounts which included cross-referencing my colleagues work and assisting my manager when required with administrative tasks.
- I received considerable exposure to large-scale commercial projects, including participation in the audit of a Top1000 company.
- I researched and presented a fictitious client issue to a panel of partners and received strong feedback in respect of my presentation skills.

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Virtual Internships:

- Bright Network Legal Internship 2020
- Legal Cheek Legal Internship 2020
- Clifford Chance Business and Human Rights Internship 2020
- Kennedys Legal Internship 2020

Academic Awards:

- The Irish Environmental Law Association - Professor Yvonne Scannell Prize (2019)
- McCann FitzGerald Prize for Company Law, Trinity College (2018)
- First Class Book Prize, Trinity College (2018)

Honours:

- Trinity Business Student of the Year finalist (2019)
- Dean's List for Volunteering, Trinity College (2018)
- Exceptional Commendation, S2S, Trinity College (2018)

Volunteering Activities:

- Representative on the EQUIS accreditation undergraduate panel at Trinity Business School
- Student2Student Head Mentor, Trinity College Dublin
- Contributing author - the Eagle Gazette
- Concern debates second level adjudicator
- Law Day volunteer, Trinity College Dublin

Skills and Activities:

- Computers and technology: I am a very proficient user of programmes such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Key House. I also completed a module in Digital Technology in Operations. I have a typing speed of approximately 60 words per minute.
- Languages: I have a strong level of Irish and a moderate level of French.
- Business development: I have excellent business development skills by recommending the firm to both family and friends.
- Public speaking and debating: I enjoy participating in public speaking/debating challenges. I adjudicated debates for Concern as part of their debating programme for second level students.
- Volunteering: I have substantial volunteering experience as outlined above.
- Genealogy: I am very passionate about researching my family history and I have traced over 4,500 relations over a 240-year period.

References:

Available upon request.