Jennifer Brennan

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# **PRofile/ Summary**

I am a LLM International Commercial Law Student at University College Dublin, 2024 Trinity College Dublin Law and German Graduate, and FE1 Candidate. I have over 2.5 years legal internship experience gained with Novartis (multi-national pharmaceutical company) and RDJ LLP. My key strengths include extensive experience of contract management in clinical trials, quality review and employment law; project management, teamwork, collaboration and customer solution mindset from my time working in cross functional project teams within Novartis. During my RDJ internship in the Banking and Finance department, I demonstrated strong research and analysis, project and teamwork skillset for client insights, loan agreements, and share purchase agreement activities. In addition, I have strong innovation, entrepreneurship and presentation skills having completed two innovation projects and start-up pitches in my Innovation and Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Diploma in Trinity; strong research and analysis skills demonstrated in two volunteer research projects completed in 2021-2022; I am organised and hard-working as I worked part-time with Novartis for 2 years (20 hours a week) during my Trinity studies.

# **EDUCATION**

* 2024 – Present: Law Society of Ireland – FE1 Candidate
* 2024-2025: University College Dublin – LLM International Commercial Law
* 2020-2024: Trinity College Dublin – Law and German (LLB Ling. German). Completed with II.1 (69%) honors
* 2022-2023: Erasmus at Ludwig-Maximillian’s University of Munich. Completed with 1.1 honors
* 2021-2022: Trinity College Dublin – Innovation and Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Diploma: Completed with II.1 honors
* 2018-2020: Institute of Education, Leeson St Dublin, Ireland
* 2013-2018: St Kilian’s Deutsche Schule Clonskeagh Dublin, Ireland
* 2006-2013: International School Basel, Aesch, Basel, Switzerland
* 2005-2006: Doha School, Acarkent, Beykoz, Istanbul, Turkey

# **Key skills and achievements**

* **Project Management and Teamwork**: As a legal intern in Novartis, I collaborated on projects in cross functional teams in contract management and negotiations. I have learnt the most successful way to resolve contract issues is to listen and understand multiple perspectives to succeed in resolving client issues. I also led a project which examined the most common deviations from a contract template of English-German contracts and comparing these findings to the negotiation guidelines. These findings were then used to update the current negotiation guidelines as a standard practice.
* **Research and Analysis**: During my tenures in RDJ and Novartis, I researched loan agreements, banking client case notes, employment legislation, and clinical research agreements. My research analysis was reviewed and presented to senior leadership and clients. In Trinity, I was a volunteer researcher for two FLAC research projects on disability rights and gendered issues in law with findings published by FLAC Ireland.
* **Problem Solving**: My contract management activities in Novartis required regular critical thinking skills in the contract negotiations and project work to resolve client issues for dual language contracts. During my Innovation and Entrepreneurship Diploma, I worked on a project which required my team to find a successful business solution for a struggling charitable organisation. This entailed identification of the key issues and pitching a feasible business solution which would allow the charity to be successful in the future.
* **Hardworking, Organisation and Proactive:** I have successfully demonstrated my hard-working ethic, organisation, and proactivity skillset during my university tenure. During my third year and my final year at university, I worked part time for 20 hours per week as a legal intern in Novartis Ireland alongside my university studies. In my second year, I worked as a volunteer researcher on two FLAC Research projects and completed an undergraduate Level 7 diploma in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I am currently pursuing my FE1 exams and working with UCD Alumni Foundation in addition to my Masters studies.
* **German Language / Living Abroad:** As part of my Erasmus in LMU, Munich, I studied Law entirely through German. This allowed me to gain fluency in the language, as well as explore another legal jurisdiction through the German language. Moreover, this fluency in the German language allowed me to successfully integrate into the local community. Although, this was my first time moving abroad alone, I have previous experience living abroad, having grown up in Basel, Switzerland and Istanbul, Turkey.

# **work EXPERIENCE**

**Legal Intern at RDJ LLP, Dublin: July 2024 – August 2024**

* Legal Intern in the Banking and Finance Department
* Researched and created an internal client insight sheet on the current Irish law on default interest rate clauses in loan agreements
* Created a client insight sheet on the distinction between exit fees, break fees and early repayment charges in loan agreements
* Researched and drafted case notes for internal client usage
* Reviewed, edited, and updated share purchase agreements
* Shadowed client meetings and transaction closures
* Participated in Intern moot court – successfully represented the defense in intern moot court
* Shadowed commercial litigation solicitors in a High Court case involving aviation leasing firms and all-risk insurance firms.
* Managed and scanned daily post

**Legal Intern at Novartis Ireland: June 2022 – July 2024**

* Full time from June – September 2022, part-time intern from September 2022 to July 2024 doing twenty hours per week
* Drafted first draft technical apheresis agreements, both in the English language and dual language agreements (German, French, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Polish, Korean, and Taiwanese)
* Drafted product quality reviews, both in English and dual language agreements (German, French, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Korean, and Polish)
* Worked and collaborated on legal contracts for clinical trials
* Periodically updated contract templates, both in English and dual language versions
* Reviewed, edited, and updated changes made to contracts during negotiation process
* Finalized contracts for signature
* Periodically updated negotiation guidelines in accordance with the latest standards
* Live contract management – managed the contract tracker and dashboard which shows the location and negotiation stage of contract

**Summer Legal Intern at Novartis Ireland: June 2021 - September 2021**

* Reviewed and amended dual language contract templates (German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Romanian) for grammatical and referencing errors
* Worked on a draft for an Italian-English dual language contract
* Worked on a project which examined the most common deviations from a contract template of English-German contracts and compared these findings to the negotiation guidelines
* Reviewed current employment contracts to see if probationary clauses were up to date with current court decisions

**Transition Year Work Experience at Novartis Ireland: November 2017; April 2018**

* Work Experience in the Medical Communications and Information, Patient Access, Data Science, Marketing and Finance Departments

# **Other Experience**

* UCD Alumni Foundation fundraiser September 2024 to present
* Participated in the McCann FitzGerald LawStart Programme in January 2021
* FLAC Research Project on Disability Rights: co-authored chapter on the Irish Sign Language Act, focusing on the limitations and scope of the Act (Pub. Feb 2022)
* FLAC Research Project on Gendered Issues in Irish Law and Policy: co-authored chapter on the Termination of Pregnancy, focusing on the 2018 8th Amendment Referendum, current legislation, and accessibility. (Pub. June 2022)
* Current Affairs and Culture correspondent for school blog, “LAUT!” (2016-18)

# **Volunteer Experience**

* RDJ / Dublin City Council ‘Adopt a Street’ community programme
* Charity Work for Blindness Ireland 2018: Fundraised and volunteered for Blindness Ireland
* Art Zone - St Kilian’s Deutsche Schule 2017-18: Volunteer Assistant for student art classes

# **Other Achievements**

* John Hopper Medal for Statistics 2018; Explore Award (Expedition in Personal and Life Skills through Outdoor Education) - Kerry Education & Training Award 2018

# **Languages**

* Fluent German speaker: Leaving Cert, Sprachdiplum and university minor subject. Erasmus at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München Sept 2022 to July 2023
* French speaker: Leaving Cert and DELF

# **Hobbies/ Interests**

* Yoga, Running, Gym and Tennis. Current active member of UCD Tennis Club.
* Reading, current affairs, travel, and languages.
* Currently an active member of UCD Student Legal Services and Law Society, and previously an active member of the TCD Law Society, Germanic Society, ELSA, FLAC, DU Modern Languages, TES, and Environmental Society
* Previous member of the Trinity Canoe and Kayaking Club – participated in intervarsity competitions