

KEVIN JAMES BURNS

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PERSONAL PROFILE

A sharp and eloquent Law graduate with a wealth of experience as an advocate, policy maker, and leader through my post as Deputy President of Dundee University Students' Association. Since moving in Dublin, I've made a concerted effort to become thoroughly acquainted with Ireland's legal sector through my journalistic work with Irish Legal News. I've demonstrated tenacity and resilience in balancing full-time employment with PIAB, part-time work for ILN, and my evening legal studies. Studying jurisprudence has been a challenging and enriching pursuit, and I relish the opportunity to build a vibrant and rewarding career in this field.

EDUCATION

2017-Present: Griffith College Professional Law School

Law Society of Ireland Entrance Examination Preparatory Course

2012-2016: University of Dundee

English Law LLB (Hons) (2012-2015)

Scots Law LLB (2013-2016)*

*Note: I took these programmes simultaneously, having taken advantage of the unique opportunity offered at Dundee to study the law of both jurisdictions in my second year.

2005-2012: St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick

A Level Results:

- A2 English Literature, A*;
- A2 Politics, A;
- A2 Music, A;

GCSE Results:

- Four A*s
- six As
- one B

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

January 2018 – Present Clerical Officer of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB)

My present responsibilities at PIAB centre upon handling personal injuries cases. Initially, I review all submitted evidence in order to assess whether it is appropriate for assessment as per the PIAB Act 2003, and if so, I process the claim through the appropriate channels.

This involves liaising between claimants, solicitors, insurers, medical professionals and the court system to ensure the smooth progress of each claim. Through this position, I have gained a comprehensive and critical understanding of the personal injury legal regime in Ireland. It has also afforded me an appreciation of the challenges of working within a strict legislative framework, an experience which I believe to be applicable to the legal profession.

August 2017 – Present Journalist for Irish Legal News (ILN)

Currently, I am writing for Irish Legal News as a Dublin-based correspondent. My role is to cover significant legal events, interview notable persons and to promote the publication among its target audience. As such, I have excellent experience in legal news media and in drafting press releases, as well as extensive knowledge of public relations strategies used by today's law firms. This role has given me exceptional exposure to the Law Society, access to top lawyers, judges and policy-makers, and a broad understanding of the issues facing the Irish legal sector.

July 2016 – June 2017 Deputy President of Dundee University Students' Association (DUSA)

I was elected to a sabbatical position as chief academic officer and senior executive member, and trustee of DUSA, the most successful students' association in Scotland. The role is multifaceted and includes a diverse range of responsibilities;

- Advocacy: it was my responsibility to represent students during academic appeals, general complaints, and non-academic disputes such as tuition fee and visa issues.
- Representation: I represented the academic interests of *circa* 17,000 Dundee students at all levels of the University. I put forward policies on a University-wide basis aimed at enhancing the student experience.
- Trusteeship: as an executive member of the Board of Trustees, I have oversight of all operations and activities undertaken by DUSA as a charity. DUSA has an annual turnover of *circa* £6 million.

July 2015 - July 2016 Independent Member of the University Court

I previously held an elected position on the University Court, which is the highest governing body within the institution. My role was to represent the interests of the entire student body in all matters that came before Court, in particular safeguarding students during a period of austerity and transition in the sector. During my term, I contributed to the debate around the complete restructuring of the University from a collegiate system to a school-based multidisciplinary system.

September 2013 – April 2014 Telders International Law Moot Court Competition

I had the privilege of being one of three Law students that represented Scotland in the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition at The Hague. This is one of the world's most prestigious legal competitions, and is run in cooperation with the International Court of Justice. The competition is a seven month long process, requiring the submission of two 45+ page memorandums detailing the opposing arguments, and ending with a four days of moot court rounds involving all 43 teams representing most European countries. Despite facing several adversities over the course of the competition, we went on to win the Outstanding Team Award.

May – June 2011 Mini-Pupillage at 10 King's Bench Walk Barristers' Chambers, The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, London

During the mini-pupillage at 10 King's Bench Walk, I had the opportunity to shadow various barristers involved in civil, commercial and criminal cases in various courts around London. Through the experience, I gained an insight into how to successfully structure and present a convincing argument before a court, the value of a professional demeanour, and how best to communicate the complexities of a case in the most comprehensible manner to a client.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Music: I play bouzouki, classical guitar, mandolin, keyboard and bodhrán.

Running & Outdoor Pursuits: I ran the 2017 Belfast Marathon, raising £1050 for the MAP charity. I attend Parkrun weekly. I cycle 20 kilometres to and from work daily. I hike as often as I can.

Gaelic football: I was part of the Dundee Men's Gaelic team that reached 2016 BUCS final.

Personal studies: I'm an avid reader of literature, macro-histories, economics, and current affairs.

REFERENCES

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