

Lara Hand CV

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Education

A-Levels* (2007-2009) Loreto Grammar School, Omagh
Subjects: Biology (A), Chemistry (A), English (A), French (A)
** Taken before the introduction of the A* grade at A-Level*

Degree LLB (2009-2013) Trinity College, Dublin and Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
Law & French (2:1 overall)

Employment and Legal Work Experience

Case Manager: New Beginning Advisors Ltd (July 2013 – present)

I am currently employed by New Beginning, a financial advice and debt management firm. I manage the cases of our active clients who have engaged our services, primarily our bankruptcy clients. This role involves working with both solicitors and personal insolvency practitioners in order to prepare clients' bankruptcy petitions. I also deal with clients who have been affected by Permanent TSB's Mortgage Redress Programme assisting them with the appeals process and compensation claim. My work also involves negotiating with lenders and submitting financial proposals to restructure various kinds of debt, including personal and business/commercial debt. My work is primarily self-directed and I have a lot of personal responsibility, communicating directly with clients and preparing both legal and financial documents.

Legal Executive

In May to July 2013 and May to July 2011 I completed an internship with FitzGibbon & Company Solicitors and with Sheehan and Partners Solicitors respectively. My role involved attending client meetings, preparing memos and legal documents, legal research as well as administrative duties. I found this to be a highly rewarding and enjoyable experience. It gave me an excellent insight into what is required working in a busy law firm as well as the practical application of the law and the work carried out by solicitors. I had the opportunity of assisting on two cases which were before the Supreme Court.

Activities and Interests

Caseworker: The Irish Innocence Project (2012 – present)

The Irish Innocence Project provides me with excellent practical, clinical legal experience working with other caseworkers and supervising lawyers, reading case files, corresponding and meeting with clients and witnesses, prison visits, legal research and preparing reports. I have been afforded the opportunity to travel to Greece for one of the cases with which I am involved; there I gained first-hand experience of the Greek legal system, attending court and working closely with the Greek defence lawyer. I have been awarded a place on Dean of Students' Roll of Honour for my involvement with the Irish Innocence Project. I also completed a month long internship with the

California Innocence Project in September 2015 gaining experience of the American legal and criminal justice system.

Trinity Social and Political Review (General Manager, Volume XXIII, 2012-2013; Senior Editor, Volume XX1, 2010-2011)

Throughout my degree I was involved with the Trinity Social and Political Review in two roles. My role as senior editor required a high level of attention to detail when editing academic articles. In my capacity as general manager, I was in charge of the non-editorial aspects of running the journal, including event management and general administration, which required management, organisation and interpersonal skills.

Debating

My oral communication and interpersonal skills have been developed through my involvement in various speech and drama, public speaking and debating events, including organising a French debating competition in university. I obtained my Silver Medal Speech and Drama Trinity Guildhall qualification while studying for my A-Levels.

Volunteering

In university, I volunteered with the Trinity VDP Society: this voluntary role included participating in the "Kids Literacy Programme" and the "soup run".

Skills

I am fluent in both French and German.

I am proficient at using Microsoft Office and databases and have a typing speed of over 65 words per minute.

References

Mr. Ross Maguire SC

Dr. Niamh Connolly