**Laura Kennedy**

Farrangarode, Quay Rd, Ballina, Co Mayo

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**EDUCATION**

**2022 – Present**

Studies LLM Children’s Rights and Family Law at University College Cork

**2018 - 2022**

Studied Law with Social Justice (BCL) at University College Dublin

First Class Honours (1:1)

Modules completed include;

Tort Law, Constitutional Law, Contract Law, Intro to the Irish Legal System, Legal & Professional Skills, Criminal Law, Property Law, EU Law, Company Law, Equity & Trusts, Employment Law, Social Inclusion Law, Criminal Justice & Penology, Legal Placement Module, Family Law, Child Protection Law, Internet Law, Human Rights Education, Criminological Theory, Sports Law

**2012 - 2018**

Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

Leaving Certificate 2018 531 Points

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Date:** February 2021 – June 2021

**Name of Employer:** UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

**Responsibilities:** As a Peer Researcher, I facilitated focus groups, organised data and undertook research.

**Date:** June 2021 – July 2021

**Name of Employer:** Irish Refugee Council

**Responsibilities:**  I undertook research, attended meetings, assisted with cases and other admin duties.

**Date:** October 2016 – Present

**Name of Employer:** Penneys Ltd (Ballina/Dundrum/Cork)

**Responsibilities:** I provide an excellent standard of customer service, as well as completing deliveries and assisting with administrative duties.

**Date:** April 2019 – April 2022

**Name of Employer:** UCD Student Recruitment

**Responsibilities:** I provided campus tours, complete office work and assist with open evenings and alumni events

**VOLUNTEER WORK**

* Student Leader for UCDVO 2019/20 project in Ruaha, Tanzania
* Weekly Street Outreach with UCDSVP
* Youth Work in Oznam House with UCDSVP
* Part of the 2019/20 UCD Peer Mentor Programme
* Part of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Gortnor Abbey Peer Mentor programme

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

* Awarded 2020/21 UCD President’s Award for outstanding contribution to student life
* Finalist in UCDSLS McCann Fitzgerald Negotiation Competition
* Committee Member of the UCD Law Society – Honorary Lifetime Membership Convenor (110th Session), Freshers Outreach Officer (109th Session)
* Committee Member of the UCD St Vincent de Paul Society – Secretary (2021/22), Social Justice Officer (2020/21), Public Relations Officer (2019/20)
* Training Officer of the UCD Student Legal Service (2021/22)
* Completed ‘Be the Change’ and ‘Skills in Development Education’ courses, led by Comhlámh
* UCD Student Ambassador 2019/20 and 2020/21
* Received UCD Embark Award for excellence in extracurricular activities in first year
* Winner of 2017 Gortnor Abbey Literary Awards
* Nominee for 2018 Academic Student of the Year
* Received NUIG Business Studies Award for excellent results in Junior Certificate Business Studies
* Elected out of 50 candidates as Freshers Representative for the 165th Session of the UCD Literary and Historical Society
* Piano - achieved high Honours in Grade 7 exam in 2017
* Selected to participate in the McCann Fitzgerald Law First programme
* Selected by the Irish Refugee Council as a Legal Intern for June 2021 as part of UCD Legal Placement module

**SKILLS**

* **Public Speaking:**

I have competed in college debating competitions in UCC, NUIG, TCD, as well as reaching the semi-finals of the James Joyce Maidens Competition in UCD in 2018. I was a finalist in the 2021 UCD SLS Negotiation Competition.

* **Organisational Skills:**

I have shown great organisational skills in college and beyond. I organised various fundraising events in aid of UCD Volunteers Overseas, raising over €2,650. I have also organised panel discussions with guest speakers with UCD Lawsoc, as well as organising weekly coffee mornings.

* **Team Working:**

I work well with people and am a co-operative team member. I have been a committee member of multiple student societies, working with as many as 33 people.

* **Leadership:**

I am a confident leader and enjoy overseeing groups of people. I was a student leader for the 2019/20 UCDVO project to Tanzania, where I helped provide security training, facilitate information sessions and oversee the general wellbeing of 15 volunteers. I also undertook additional duties while helping pilot the 2020 Virtual Volunteering Programme.

**REFERENCES**

**Dr Suzanne Egan**

Associate Professor in the Sutherland School of Law at University College Dublin

Email: suzanne.egan@ucd.ie

**Ceolan McMullin**

Auditor of UCD St Vincent de Paul

Email: ceolan.mcmullin@ucd.ie