Niamh Melia 

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**Education**

* 1. - Studies Law at Trinity College Dublin

Year 4 Subjects Overall Exam Result: II.I (Expected)

Company Law

Family Law

Child Law

Penology

Food Law

European Human Rights

Jurisprudence

Year 3 Subjects Overall Exam Result: II.I

Refugee and Immigration Law

Medical Law and Ethics

Criminology

Evidence

International Human Rights

Sport Law

Year 2 Subjects Overall Exam Result: III

Land Law

Administrative Law

Constitutional Law II

Equity

Private Law Remedies

European Union Law

Year 1 Subjects Overall Exam Result: II.II

Constitutional Law

Legislation and Regulation

Contract Law

Torts

Irish Legal System

Criminal Law

**2011-2012** - Attended The Institute of Education

Leaving Certificate Subjects Overall Points: 485

English B1 Higher

Irish B1 Higher

Religion B1 Higher

History B1 Higher

Music B2 Higher

Spanish C2 Higher

Maths D1 Ordinary

**2007-2011** - Attended Castleknock Community College

**Work Experience**

1. Legal Experience

**-Legal Secretary to Mr Derek Ryan, Barrister-at-Law-**

 June 2013- September 2013

Having initially only intended on shadowing Mr. Ryan, I was delighted when he asked me to work as his assistant and intern for the summer. Legal research, a vast comprehension of the law and the inner workings of the court system itself were at the forefront of my daily work experience. Being active in the legal profession showed me how suited I was to it; from both an academic and a practical aspect. During my time working under Mr Ryan I attended on court on a daily basis. I was at the forefront of his legal research and learnt to quickly analyse case law. As I was not only an intern but also a secretary I also liaised with clients and completed general administrative/secretarial tasks, learning the importance of professionalism and competence in communication. I had only completed my first year of my law degree so my knowledge was not profound however it was an invaluable experience and insight into the workings of the courts and the law.

**-Legal Intern at Dáil Éireann, Houses of the Oireachtas-**

 July 2015- October 2015

As an intern with Senator Daly, the tasks of press releases and research were originally assigned to me. I assisted him in the case of Ibrahim Halawa and sat in on the Foreign Affairs Committee regularly. However after a month of working full time, Senator Daly appointed all financial/insolvency issues to me. I acted as a researcher for his manifestos on such matters but more importantly, for constituents who went to Senator Daly for help on such matters. I had many dealings with NAMA and familiarised myself with banking and financial law. It was challenging but in delving into such an interesting area of law I found something I would like to practice in as a solicitor. As an intern I had to maintain this part of my workload as well as the administrative side of my tasks; Senator Daly's calendar, his press releases and his social media updates. I also completed many research documents on EU Law and regulatory issues, as Senator Daly had strong ties with Brian Crowley MEP. This was a relatively new area of law for me and I thoroughly enjoyed the research and analysis.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

I have been actively involved in University life since I started in 2012. I am communications officer for Enactus TCD (Keep Appy Project). This is an app that is mid-production and aims to promote mental health wellbeing for students worldwide. I was in the final of the A&L Goodbody Commercial Negotiations Competition last year. In 3rd year I also volunteered with Nightline manning the phones several times a month. I was accepted for on-campus accommodation for this, my final year and now volunteer with VDP Soup Run every Tuesday night. . I love travelling. I lived in Cyprus for 2 years when I was younger. From there we travelled to Lebanon, Egypt and Israel. Since then I have travelled to Holland, Germany, New York and Paris. These trips have been for leisure. When I was 16 I visited Calcutta with a group of 12 other students from my year. We went with the charity BeKind and it truly changed my life.

1. **Achievements**

I won Student of the Year and many academic merit awards throughout my time at Castleknock Community College. However, classical singing has always been a passion of mine and one I pursued competitively. I have entered and won Feis Ceoil, the Wesley Feis and the Arklow Feis (among others) over the years. I studied under Ms Mary Brennan and for a short period, Ms Veronica Dunne. I have a passion for classical music and play the violin and piano however I never pursued these interests competitively, but was a member of a Youth Orchestra from the age of 9 to 14. I was selected as a choral scholar in Trinity however I could not accept the position as I had a part-time job which was vital for my college education.

At the age of 16 and in 5th year of school, I organised a fashion show that raised over €3,000. In order to earn a place on a charity trip to Calcutta, we had to raise funds and I decided that putting on a large fashion show with designer and high street clothes, in a five star hotel would be the best way to do that! At such a tender age, with no budget, contacts or time, I was set to fail. However, I worked tirelessly and got professional models, teachers and students to strut on the catwalk. I raised revenue on both ticket sales and a raffle, the contents of which was worth over €1,000 and was donated entirely by local businesses.
Although it happened years ago, the fashion show still stands out as an example of my motivation. I never gave up and I never took no for an answer. Motivation has always been an inherent feature of my character. Showing initiative is not something that one can be born with, however. It takes hard work and time. And the fashion show displayed significant initiative. Instead of knocking door to door, or organising a bake sale, I stepped out of my comfort zone. I showed that lateral thinking pays off more than anything else. Motivation and initiative are pivotal to success. I like to think that organising this fashion show was my first learning curve with these two characteristics.

**References**

Academic:

Dr Neville Cox, Tutor in School of Law, Trinity College Dublin, D 2.

Email: ncox@tcd.ie

Professional:

Senator Mark Daly, Leinster House, Kildare Street, D 2.

Email: mark.daly@oireachtas.ie