**Padraic Mckenna**

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**CAREER OBJECTIVE**

Bachelor of Law and Business graduate with first-hand experience in both legal and business environments with a particular interest in property, corporate and administrative law. I am applying to receive a legal traineeship beginning in the blackhall place in either 2025 or 2026.

**EDUCATION**

**FE1 Exams:** I have successfully passed five FE1 exams to date, these being the Property, Equity, EU Law, Tort and Criminal Law FE1s. These five exams have been passed all five across the last two sittings, which were all completed whilst working full time. I have awaiting the results from the remaining three exams in the October 2024 sitting.

**September 2019 - May 2023: Bachelor of Law and Business (BCL) University of Galway: Overall GPA Average of 68.4%.**

**4th year modules**: Administrative law (73%) Criminology (70%) Labour law (67%), Land law (60%), Commercial law (70%), Final Thesis (70%), Law of Equity (66%), and Evidence (72%) Overall average for the year: 68.5%

**3rd year modules:** First class honours in international real estate transactions (80%), cross border litigation (70%) and criminology, crime and criminal justice (72%), the philosophy of law and society (72%), and Mergers and Acquisitions (70%), Democracy in the Orban Regime (72%) Achieved during an Erasmus year, studying at Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest. Overall, a 72.8% average for the year.

**2nd year modules:** Microeconomics (68%) and Macroeconomics (87%), Cybersecurity (66%), employment relations (62%) and management (67%), Company law 68%, EU Law (65%) and in Criminal law (64%). Overall, a 68.38% average for the year

**2019: Leaving Certificate Colaiste Mhuire secondary school Mullingar**

507 points, including 91% in English and 88% in History.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**25th March 2024 – Present Day: Legal Intern, Philip Lee LLP Projects and Construction Team**

**Duties:**

* Preparing Briefs for High Court Proceedings
* Filing of motions and affidavits in the Central Office of the High Court
* Becoming familiar with the various Directives and Guidelines frequently used in European and National Procurement proceedings
* Working with both Public and Private sector clients in a range of different matters, such as procurement challenges, contractual arbitrations and liability disputes for negligent construction practices.
* Working alongside a Tier Two team per the latest Legal 500 rankings.
* Increasing my knowledge of legal databases through almost daily use of Vlex Justis and Practical Law.
* Working full time, in office hours whilst studying for the FE1 exams in the evening and weekends, showcasing effective time management.

**25th August 2023 – 22nd March 2024: Legal executive, Hugh J Ward Solicitors,**

**Duties**

* Drafting District, Circuit and High Court proceedings
* Service of Proceedings
* Drafting Statutory Declarations and Affidavits of Service
* Drafting motions
* Taking instructions from clients
* Briefing counsel
* Dealing with incoming correspondence and telephone calls from agents, solicitors, and defendants
* Liaising with clients over court outcome and next steps
* Drafting letters
* Contributing to departmental monthly target
* Liaising with court services
* Managing a high-volume, fast-moving workload

**June 2022- August 2022: Legal intern, Larkin Tynan Nohilly Solicitors, Mullingar**

**Duties:**

* Coordinating client meetings with the partners of the firm, along with ensuring all necessary documentation was prepared for the meetings.
* Gained real court experience in the district, circuit and high court. This experience taught me a great deal about the day-to-day effect of practicing law. These cases included areas such as fighting property repossessions, money laundering cases and domestic violence, allowing me to see a broad range of cases and the intricacies of each one.
* Pro-actively participating in client-partner meetings, as I was encouraged by all parties to offer my legal opinion and strategy.
* Examined evidence for upcoming trials along with preparing clients for their court cases with questioning.
* Became proficient at the legal database Keyhouse, and used it to log files for cases, set fees and document all written communication between the firm and the clients.
* Drafting legal documents under the supervision of the managing partner, including tenancy agreements, leases, power of attorney etc.

**June-September 2020: Sales Assistant, Hughes Eurospar, Mullingar**

**Duties:**

* My duties included working as a sales assistant, managing stock, operating the cash register and dealing with customer complaints, which often required using my knowledge of contract and consumer law to think on my feet.
* Worked within a team of 10-12 employees consistently communicating, sharing information and being open-minded and approachable.
* Working here has also gave me the opportunity to develop my ability to work off my own initiative, as I was delegated many roles that would normally be carried out by management, such as training new employees, overseeing and signing off on stock intakes and preparing promotional materials and displays.
* Maintained and enforced strict and up-to-date cleanliness and social distancing policies for the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the safety of employees and customer satisfaction.

**June 2018-March 2020: Junior Business Analyst, Skypaq, Mullingar**

**Duties:**

* Business support: Coordinated with internal and external shareholders, helped consolidate business reports and preparation for weekly client meetings. I also carried out other administrative tasks as needed.
* Data Analytics: Analysed the results of aircraft returns reports to ensure data integrity was maintained and all outlying data embedded within the reports was identified and traced. I also achieved a certification in the data analytics tool Tableau.

**SKILLS PROFILE**

**Legal research**: During my four years of study. I have needed to research cases for both assignments and practical examinations, and am now proficient in many legal databases, most commonly using Westlaw.ie.

Combining this with experience I have procured working in two separate Solicitors firms which has given me a broad knowledge of the requirements needed from a legal research perspective in a fast-paced environment.

**Communication:** Having achieved high grades throughout my law degree, along with a H1 in Leaving Certificate English, I displayed a high level of written communication skills throughout my academic career, which has only increased during my legal experience as I learnt how to draft briefs, letters to clients and correspond with opposition council.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**University of Galway Free Legal Aid Committee:** During my time in University, I was a member of the Free Legal Aid Society, and I also completed the Committees Volunteer Training Workshops in 2023.

**First Class Honours in Thesis:** I received a first-class honours in my Thesis during my final year in the University of Galway. Titled “Betting on Change: Can the proposed gambling regulation bill offer sufficient protections for vulnerable and problem gamblers in Ireland?”, the essay used various sources, ranging from academic legal commentary to medical research surrounding the prevalence of problem Gambling in Ireland, and also including primary sources from Dail Eireann debates. This essay was a particularly proud moment for me given my belief in the necessity to confront and remove the stigma surrounding gambling addiction in Ireland.

**Erasmus Year:** For the third year of my degree, I lived in Budapest, Hungary, studying in Eotvos Lorand University. While living abroad, I learned various skills, such as budgeting, networking in a new environment and communicating with people with a different first language to mine. This also will help me adapt easily to working in a firm with various international offices outside of Ireland, as I have experience liaising with people from other cultures to achieve a common goal.

**Charity Work:** I also was the co-coordinator of the University of Galway’s “Shave a life” charitable initiative. This charity event raised over 30,000 for the Samaritans mental health charity, and my duties included coordinating with the Samaritans Galway office, the University’s charitable office and the establishment which held the event. The event itself was a resounding success, and I am very proud to have played a part in contributing to such a worthwhile cause.

**Sporting success:** I was a member of the Mullingar Shamrocks Senior Men’s GAA team, winning the Westmeath Senior County Championship in 2018, representing my county at under 20 level and winning two invitational European football championships with Budapest GAA. These events, which bring both Irish expatriates and people from other cultures who play GAA abroad, were a highlight of my time abroad.

**INTERESTS/HOBBIES**

**History:** I have had a large interest in history from a young age which helped me throughout my studies, most notably when studying both constitutional and administrative law.

**Reading and Audiobooks**: Characters such as Atticus Finch from To Kill a Mockingbird and Portia from the Merchant of Venice played a part in my decision to pursue a career in the legal profession. Given I am currently working full time and using my evenings for study, I consume a lot of my reading material through Audiobooks.

**REFEREES**

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Name: David Nohilly

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