Suzanne connell

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17/07/1997

**EDUCATION:**

* Penultimate year Law student at University College Dublin (BCL International).
* Graduated from Mount Anville Secondary School, Class of 2015.
* Currently on exchange at King Hall School of Law at the University of California, Davis. I commenced my exchange in August 2017 and will be completing it in May 2018. It has so far been a wonderful opportunity for me to expand and refine my legal knowledge, through exposure to different teaching techniques as well as being immersed in a different jurisdiction. It has helped me to mature in my studies and in my personal life, as well as offering me the invaluable opportunity to travel and really experience first hand what life is like outside of Ireland.

**AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

* Recipient of academic prizes in English, French, Geography and Irish during secondary school
* Completed up to and including grade 6 in the Royal Irish Academy of Music piano exams.
* Reached Intermediate level in the Royal Academy of Dance Vocational ballet exams.
* Lead dancer in several ballet productions at the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire.
* Letter to the Editor on the topic of whether philosophy should be taught in secondary schools published in the Irish Times.
* Took part in UCD’s Student Legal Services Negotiation Competition Autumn 2017

**HOBBIES AND SKILLS**

* I play golf and tennis in my spare time. I have a strong interest in health and fitness, with a specific focus on weight training. On top of this, I also attend yoga, Pilates and barre classes as I find them to be refreshing and effective ways to unwind.
* I play the piano and have a passion for music flowing from years of studying the subject in school. I regularly attend concerts and festivals, and I find music is a great way to connect with people based on common interests.
* I have been a keen reader from a young age. I love to read works of fiction and I am also a big theatre fan.
* I have an intermediate level of spoken and written French. I also have a basic level of spoken and written Irish.
* I completed a course of ECDL while in secondary school.

**PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Frank Ward & Co Solicitors** - Equity House, Upper Ormond Quay, North City, Dublin [30/05/16 – 01/07/16]

**Job Title:** Legal Assistant

As I had never had any exposure to the legal profession prior to commencing my degree, this work experience taught me about the mechanics behind different areas of law, particularly litigation. I attended court, settlement meetings and meetings with clients. I performed miscellaneous administrative tasks such as collecting letters from the DX, hand delivering documents to the Law Library and other firms, and I was also taught how to operate the LegalEvolve software that the firm used. I compiled briefs, immersed myself in the cases that were then being handled by the office, and I improved my understanding of basic legal concepts and how they interact with legal practice.

**University College Dublin Corporate and Commercial Law Study Trip to London** [March 2017]

I was one of twenty UCD law students chosen to partake in this trip based on my grades and my motivations for wanting to go. It involved attending insight days in seven of London’s top corporate and commercial law firms, many of which were Magic Circle or Silver Circle firms. The firms visited were; Clifford Chance, Slaughter and May, DLA Piper, Herbert Smith Freehills, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Dentons and Clyde & Co. I took part in networking, negotiation activities and alternative dispute resolution activities. I also engaged with trainees and associates at each of these firms, and I was offered the invaluable opportunity to quiz them on the reality of working in such high caliber law firms. Upon successful completion of the trip I also received a certificate in work related learning from University College Dublin.

**William J Brennan & Co. Solicitors** – 33 Merrion Street Upper, Dublin 2 [05/06/17 – 14/07/17]

**Job Title:** Receptionist/ Legal Assistant

This period of work experience aided me in contextualising legal principles I had just learned in my second year of college, particularly in the areas of property and company law. Through my engagement with the practical instruments of these areas of law, such as writing contracts, memos, letters, responding to queries etc., I have been exposed to an element of the legal profession that cannot be taught in university. I feel my work as a receptionist, answering phones, organising meetings and engaging with clients, was invaluable in the development of my communication and client interaction skills. It has reinforced my desire to enter into the legal profession as I really saw it in the light of a social, people-based industry.

**REFERENCES**

ACADEMIC:

* Mrs. Lisa Pruitt
* Professor of Law at King School of Law, University of California, Davis
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EMPLOYER:

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* Senior Managing Partner at Frank Ward & Co. Solicitors
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