



# **Alternative Careers in Law**

**School of Law  
National University of Ireland,  
Galway**

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*Compiled by* Charles O'Mahony, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway.

# 1. NUI Galway Career Development Centre

Not all law graduates choose to practise as a solicitor or a barrister. Graduates pursuing the traditional professional qualification may experience difficulty in securing an apprenticeship or building their practice and may decide to consider other options. Law graduates acquire knowledge and skills through their law degree that ensure that they are highly employable in many sectors. The range of transferable skills that law graduates develop include the following:

- Problem-solving
- Research proficiency
- Analytical skills
- Writing concisely
- Synthesising large amounts of information
- Drafting formal documents with precision
- Confident oral communication
- An ability to pay close attention to detail

These are valuable skills that transfer well to a range of opportunities outside of the traditional legal professions. Up to 40 per cent of graduate employers recruit from all disciplines for their graduate management programmes and the law graduate is an attractive candidate for many of these programmes. It is important that the law graduate is able to communicate effectively to employers the range of skills that they offer.

This guide offers a no-exhaustive range of employment alternatives that the law graduate can consider. However, choosing a career path can be challenging.

Before making a decision on the various options open to you, you should first become fully aware of your personality, skills, interests and values. Developing self-awareness is a critical first step in finding a career that would be rewarding for you and which would utilise your personal strengths and abilities allowing you to achieve your full potential.

The Career Development Centre offer online psychometric tests that can help you in exploring your abilities, learning style, personality and values. Contact the Career Development Centre for further details. You can evaluate your skills by completing the Transferable Skills Self Assessment available at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/skills.html>. You should also consider careers that might match your interests by visiting the Career Development Centre information room and completing "Pathfinder" or completing an online interests test available at: <http://www.careerdirections.ie/>.

Once you have developed a good level of self-awareness, you can better explore the career options that would best suit you and begin to research the employment opportunities within these. Taking the following actions will assist you in this research

1. Register with the Career Development Centre – this will ensure that you receive vital information on job and postgraduate opportunities via email, on a weekly basis. You can do this online at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/signup.php>.
2. Register with gradireland and postgradireland to broaden your research and your job search <http://gradireland.com/my-gradireland/register.aspx?institutioncode=NUIG>
3. Check out postgraduate and job opportunities in the United Kingdom at: <http://www.prospects.ac.uk>
4. Check out closing dates for many graduate programmes in Ireland and the UK. Available at: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/closing\\_dates.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/closing_dates.html).

The next step is to make sure that you are ready to apply for the job or postgraduate course you have identified. A good CV is essential for job applications and a convincing personal statement for many postgraduate courses. Try to attend one of the workshops offered during term by the Career Development Centre, which provide support to students in completing applications. Once you have drafted your CV or personal statement, a member of staff in the Career Development centre can give you feedback on how you could enhance the document and improve your chances of success. The Career Development Centre also provides students with support in preparation for interview, focusing on the requirements for the job and planning answers for typical interview questions.

Career Development Centre opening hours:

- Monday – Thursday: 9am – 5pm
- Friday: 11am – 5pm

Meet and adviser for a Quick Query (every day):

- 11am – 12pm
- 2.30pm – 4pm

Prebook a 15-minute slot by phone (091 493589) or in person from 9am on the day of the query

Contact the Career Development Adviser for the Law School for a one to one half hour appointment.

Josephine Walsh

Telephone: 091 492505

Email: [josephine.walsh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:josephine.walsh@nuigalway.ie)

Feel free to contact the academic staff in the School of Law to discuss postgraduate courses and general career advice.

## 2. Alternative Careers in Law

There are a number of options for graduates not wanting to practice law as a solicitor or barrister. Law graduates (generally speaking) are well regarded by non-law employers. As you will see below a law degree and legal expertise can be applied to a number of different careers. This is a non-exhaustive list of possible alternative careers and training opportunities for law graduates.

### 1. Qualified Tax Consultants

Registered Tax Consultants work in different areas of business. Tax consultants can specialise in consulting on mergers, de-mergers, acquisitions, wealth management planning, and tax planning structures for business and so on.

- Many law firms and accountancy firms employ tax consultants.
- Many solicitors will qualify as tax consultants.
- In some law firms tax consultants may also qualify as solicitors.
- The ITI student handbook is available at:  
[http://www.taxireland.ie/documents/general/AITI\\_Student\\_Handbook-FINAL\\_WEB\(1\).pdf](http://www.taxireland.ie/documents/general/AITI_Student_Handbook-FINAL_WEB(1).pdf).
- See the following website:  
<http://www.taxireland.ie/education/CareersinTax.aspx>.
- Tax consultants are normally law graduates or accountancy graduates.
- Qualification as a tax consultant may assist graduates trying to secure apprenticeships.

### 2. Careers in Alternative Dispute Resolution

There has been an increasing interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Ireland. The Law Reform Commission published a Consultation Paper on ADR in 2008 with a final Report due in 2010.<sup>1</sup> You should note that this is not a very established career path. You will need to acquire work experience to be in a position to earn a living as a mediator or arbitrator. However, qualification in this field may assist graduates trying to secure apprenticeships.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at:

<http://www.lawreform.ie/publications/Consultation%20Paper%20on%20ALTERNATIVE%20DISPUTE%20RESOLUTION%20LRC%20CP%2050-2008.pdf>.

## a) Mediation

Please refer to Chapter 10 of the Law Reform Commission's Consultation Paper on the accreditation and training of mediators.<sup>2</sup>

Under section 15(4) of the *Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004* the following bodies have been prescribed (by a statutory order made by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform) as bodies which can nominate persons to act as the chairperson of mediation conferences.

1. Bar Council of Ireland<sup>3</sup>
2. Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Irish Branch)<sup>4</sup>
3. Friarylaw<sup>5</sup>
4. International Centre for Dispute Resolution<sup>6</sup>
5. Law Society of Ireland<sup>7</sup>
6. Mediation Forum Ireland<sup>8</sup>
7. Mediators Institute – Ireland<sup>9</sup>

Please refer to the websites of these bodies if you are interested in training as a mediator.

## Courses in Mediation

- There are a number of courses available in mediation: For example see:  
[http://www.independentcolleges.ie/faculties\\_and\\_courses/law/Diploma\\_in\\_mediation](http://www.independentcolleges.ie/faculties_and_courses/law/Diploma_in_mediation)
- <http://www.themii.ie/index.jsp>

## b) Arbitration

The School of Law at University College Dublin offers a Diploma in Arbitration. See:  
<http://www.ucd.ie/law/graduatestudents/diplomainarbitration/>.

## 3. Company Secretary

A company secretary advises clients about their legal compliance and obligations. This is a very desirable (internationally recognised) qualification that allows you to work any where in the world.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> See [www.lawlibrary.ie](http://www.lawlibrary.ie).

<sup>4</sup> See [www.arbitration.ie](http://www.arbitration.ie).

<sup>5</sup> See [www.friarylaw.ie](http://www.friarylaw.ie).

<sup>6</sup> See [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org).

<sup>7</sup> See [www.lawsociety.ie](http://www.lawsociety.ie).

<sup>8</sup> See [www.mediationforumireland.com](http://www.mediationforumireland.com).

<sup>9</sup> See [www.mediationforumireland.com](http://www.mediationforumireland.com).

Most students with a law degree or business degree will start off on the Professional programme Part II skipping 12 exams in total and only having to complete 4 exams to attain the status of GRAD.ICSA. Once a graduate obtains three years relevant work experience either in law, Company Secretary accountancy, tax or administration they can use the letters A.C.I.S. after their names.

For information on training as a company secretary see the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (I.C.S.A.) website at: <http://www.icsa.org.uk/home>.

#### **4. Legal Executives / Paralegals**

A legal executive assists in providing general and specialised legal advice. They very often work with solicitors and barristers. In recent years large commercial law firms have increasingly employed legal executives / paralegals. Some firms offer legal executives the opportunity to train as a solicitor. Legal executives are also employed in the legal departments of banks, and in public and local authorities etc.

- See the Irish Institute of Legal Executives website at: <http://www.irishinstituteoflegalexecutives.com/>

#### **5. Insurance**

The insurance industry is another career option for law graduates. The Insurance Institute of Ireland outlines the following career options in the industry:

- Administration
- Broker Consulting
- Customer Service
- Loss Adjusting
- Claims
- Loss Assessing
- Underwriting
- Surveying
- Insurance Broking
- Risk Management
- Financial Consulting

See "Careers in Insurance" 2006 for more information on careers in the insurance industry. Available at the Insurance Institute of Ireland see: <http://www.insurance-institute.ie/downloads/education/2006/CareersinInsurance2006.pdf>.



## 6. Legal Publishing

Legal publishers in Ireland have employed law graduates over the past number of years. Positions such as editorial assistants and editors arise from time to time.

The following are the main legal publishers in Ireland:

- Blackhall Publishing
- Clarus Press
- Cork University Press
- First Law
- Four Courts Press
- Gill & Macmillan
- Government Supplies Agency
- Incorporated Council of Law Reporting
- Irish Academic Press
- Irish Centre for European Law
- LexisNexis
- LexisNexis Butterworths Ireland
- Oak Tress Press
- SLS Publications
- Thomson Reuters

Career opportunities may also arise with companies providing electronic legal services. Providers of electronic legal services in Ireland include:

- First Law
- Lawlink
- LexisNexis Butterworths Ireland
- Westlaw/Thomson Reuters

A sample of international legal publishers includes:

- Ashgate
- Cambridge University Press
- Europa
- Hart Publishing
- Jordan Publishing
- Kluwer Law International
- Oxford University Press
- Routledge-Cavendish
- Sweet & Maxwell

### **United States**

For an article on careers in legal publishing in the United States see: <http://www.lawcrossing.com/article/945/A-J.D.-in-the-World-of-Legal-Publishing/>.

## 7. Patent Attorney

A patent attorney completes a course on the law and practice of patents and is required to undertake professional examinations and be entered on

the Register of Patent Agents. The work of a patent attorney involves the preparation and submission of patent applications on behalf of their client. Patent attorneys undertake a number of roles in advising clients on the validity of patents and the licensing of patents etc. The work of a patent attorney is specialised, extremely technical and generally requires a science or engineering degree. Patent attorneys very often concentrate on particular types of patents in fields such as electronics, pharmaceutical, software engineering etc. Many jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom recognise the legal professional qualification of a patent attorney.<sup>10</sup>

For more information see:

- <http://www.apmta.ie/patatt.htm>
- <http://www.cipa.org.uk/pages/home>

## **8. Trade Mark Attorney**

A Trade Mark Attorney is generally a person with a background in law, and is entered on the Register of Trade Mark Agents. A Trade Mark Attorney ensures that their client's trademark is free for use and registration, through researching existing and pending applications for trademarks etc. Many jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom recognise the legal professional qualification of a trade mark attorney.<sup>11</sup>

For more information on qualifying as a trademark attorney see:

- <http://www.apmta.ie/tradeatt.htm>
- <http://www.itma.org.uk/careers>

## **9. Academia**

Many law graduates consider the study of law a stimulating intellectual experience and have an aptitude for legal research/teaching. These graduates may consider pursuing a career in academia. Increasingly the minimum qualification for a full-time academic post is a doctorate in law. A strong publications and research record is also essential in securing a full-time academic appointment.

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<sup>10</sup> See section 185 *Legal Services Act 2007*.

<sup>11</sup> See section 184 *Legal Services Act 2007*.

## 10. Other Career Options for Law Graduates

- Advocacy
- An Garda Síochána
- Broadcasting
- Civil Service
- Education
- Finance
- Human Resources Management
- Information Provision (e.g. Citizens Information Board, MABS)
- Journalism
- Law Librarian
- Legal Information Provision
- Legal Recruitment
- Legal Secretary
- Policy Analysis
- Politics
- Social Work

### 3. Legal Research: Employment Opportunities

Over the past number of years there has been a growth in the number of legal research positions available in Ireland. These positions are mostly non-permanent fixed-term contract positions. Some of these jobs require a postgraduate qualification in law or higher, they may also require a professional qualification and/or relevant work experience.

These positions can be seen as a good stepping-stone to securing apprenticeships or academic appointments. They also provide an opportunity for newly qualified barristers to save money in advance of building up their practice.

You should also note that the availability of these positions has restricted given the cuts in public expenditure. Unemployed practitioners are now competing with law graduates for these positions.

#### 1. Government Departments

Government Departments over the past number of years have recruited legal researchers to support their work. These positions are fixed-term contracts, which may be renewed. Generally speaking full-time civil servants are recruited at EO and CO level.<sup>12</sup>

Example of Government Departments that have recruited law graduates:

- a) Department of Health and Children
- b) Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- c) Department of Foreign Affairs
  - i. Third Secretary Positions
    - The Third Secretary is the recruitment level for the Irish diplomatic service and is the first step towards more senior posts in the Department of Foreign Affairs.
    - Third Secretaries are initially assigned, usually for 2 – 3 years, to a range of responsibilities in the headquarters of the Department in Dublin.
    - Formal training opportunities, including foreign language tuition, are also provided.
    - On being posted to an Irish Embassy or Consulate abroad – the Third Secretary will become involved in many aspects of the mission's activities. For example, providing consular assistance to Irish citizens and economic reporting to the Department in Dublin. They also provide information on Ireland and briefing the foreign press on Irish affairs.

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<sup>12</sup> Although there has been a departure from that in a minor way in recent years with recruitment at AP and PO level.

- ii. Internships have been available in the Department of Foreign Affairs.
  - For example, the Human Rights Unit annually recruits a number of interns.
  - These interns are normally appointed on an 11-month fixed term contract.
  - The positions have been advertised on publicjobs.ie.

## **2. The Law Reform Commission of Ireland**

The Law Reform Commission employs a team of legal researchers. Legal researchers are under the direct supervision of the Commission's Director of Research. Legal researchers are also recruited for the Legislation Directory and Statute Law Restatement Projects.

- The positions are normally advertised around the summertime on the Law Reform Commission website. The positions are not necessarily advertised in the national media.
- The minimum requirements for the positions are normally an undergraduate degree in law and a LL.M at least at the 2.1 level.
- Practical experience or aptitude in conducting legal research is an essential requirement for the job.
- Other essential requirements' include a capacity to write well, facility with ICT and ability to work as part of a team.
- These positions are generally fixed term positions normally for 1 – 2 years.

You may also consider applying for legal research positions with other law reform agencies.

- d) The Law Commission for England and Wales
- e) Scottish Law Commission
- f) Northern Ireland Law Commission
- g) Institutional law reform agencies (both national and regional) in other common law jurisdictions
  - Canada (regional)
  - Australia (federal and regional agencies)
  - South Africa
  - New Zealand
  - Etc.

## **3. The Human Rights Commission**

The research of the Human Rights Commission is often contracted outside of the organisation. However, the Human Rights Commission does recruit for a number of different roles.

### **a) Posts**

- Senior Human Rights Awareness Officer
- Senior Research and Policy Officer
- Enquiry and Legal Officer

- Research and Policy Officer
- Human Rights Policy Fellows

#### **b) Irish Human Rights Commission Internship Programme**

The Irish Human Rights Commission recently initiated an internship programme that provides work-placement for postgraduate students who want to work in the field of human rights.

These internships are unpaid for periods of between 4 – 6 months in the following areas:

- Enquiry & Legal Services
- European /International work
- Research/Policy/Legislative Analysis
- Human Rights Education

The IHRC also operates a Professional Placement Programme. The Commission last advertised positions for these programme in January 2010.

Essential criteria for applicants to their internship programme include:

- Fluency in English
- Postgraduate Degree or Higher
- Some work experience in a professional environment
- Demonstrated interest in human rights
- A good knowledge of international human rights law and standards
- Strong research and legal analysis skills, strong drafting skills, and the ability to work to specific deadlines.
- Availability for not less than 4 months, (preference is given to applicants available for 6 months)
- Permission to be legally resident in Ireland

For more information on the Internship Programme see: [http://www.ihrc.ie/home/wnarticle.asp?NID=231&T=N&Print=.](http://www.ihrc.ie/home/wnarticle.asp?NID=231&T=N&Print=)

#### **4. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions employs legal research staff on a fixed term contract basis from time to time.

Essential entry requirements include:

- A recognised university honours law degree at a minimum 2:1 standard
- A masters degree in law or a relevant professional legal qualification
- An extensive knowledge of Irish law and the Irish legal system, with a particular interest in criminal law or criminology
- Satisfactory research experience and legal research skills
- Strong information technology skills (especially MS Office and legal online resources)
- Excellent communication skills

- The ability to work independently and in a team environment
- The ability to prioritise and manage assigned tasks in a busy environment
- Knowledge of current legal issues, legislative developments and cases have the requisite knowledge and skills to fulfill the duties assigned

The desirable skills/attributes outline in the most recent advert for the post include:

- Familiarity with the law of the European Union, human rights law, constitutional law and the laws of evidence.

## **5. Office of the Attorney General**

Two positions are normally available with the Office of the Attorney General – Legal Researcher and Graduate Library Trainee.

### **a) Legal Researchers**

- The Office of the Attorney General employs legal researchers to deliver legal research and support to Advisory Counsel (who provide legal advice and litigation services) and Parliamentary Counsel (who provide drafting services for Bills and Statutory Instruments).
- Essential Requirements: A law degree at a minimum standard of 2.1, an extensive knowledge of Irish law and the Irish legal system, strong legal research skills, strong information technology skills, particularly Microsoft Office and legal research databases.
- Advertised through publicjobs.ie in the past.

### **b) Graduate Library Trainees**

- The role of the Graduate Library Trainee is to provide information and research to Advisory Counsel and Parliamentary Counsel.
- Essential Requirements: A degree (in any subject) at a minimum standard of 2.1, an interest in pursuing a career in librarianship and/or information management, strong information technology skills, particularly Microsoft Office.
- The positions are fixed term contract positions.
- Advertised through publicjobs.ie in the past.

## **6. The Financial Regulator**

The Financial Regulator runs a Graduate Development Programme. The Graduate Development Programme is open to new graduate / postgraduates. The requirement is a degree at a minimum 2.1 standard. The Programme is open to graduates from all degree disciplines. Other requirements for the job include:

- Have the ability to analyse and make sound judgements
- Work effectively in a team
- Have good planning and organisational skills
- Demonstrate initiative and flexibility
- Show strong verbal communication and influencing skills

More information is available at:

1. <http://www.financialregulator.ie/careers/Documents/Graduate%20Development%20Programme%20Brochure%202010.pdf>
2. <http://www.financialregulator.ie/Pages/home.aspx>

## **7. Injuries Board**

The Injuries Board formerly known as the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) employs a multi-disciplined and skilled team of over 70 people.

- The career opportunities available at the Injuries Board cover technical, legal, financial, health and safety, human resources and other professional resources.
- Vacancies with the Injuries Board become available from time to time.

## **8. Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee**

The Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee was established on under Part 14 of the Criminal Justice Act 2006. The function of the Advisory Committee is to oversee the development of a programme for the codification of the criminal law. The Research Support Unit supports the work of the Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee. The unit is located in the School of Law at University College Dublin. The unit undertakes research tasks assigned to it by the Advisory Committee.

- The Research Support Unit currently employs 2 legal researchers and 1 senior legal researcher.
- These positions become available from time to time.

## **9. The Courts Service**

### **a) Judicial Research Assistants**

Judicial Research Assistants provide legal research support to members of the Irish Judiciary. The posts are based in the Judges Library in the Four Courts in Dublin.

The essential requirements for the job:

- A law degree at a minimum standard of 2.1
- An extensive knowledge of Irish law and the Irish legal system
- The ability to use information technology



- An extensive knowledge of modern research methods and materials
- An ability to edit and proof read documents
- And be in a position to take up the post on a full-time basis.
- A good knowledge of Irish and in particular an ability to read and understand legal materials in the Irish language is considered an advantage.
- These positions were last advertised in November 2009.

#### **b) Judicial Fellows**

Judicial Fellows are self-employed, and are assigned by the President of the High Court to work with one or two Judges whose major commitment is to Judicial Review, Chancery, Commercial and Competition Law lists in the High Court.

- The Fellows are appointed for a maximum period of 2 years.
- Judicial Fellows get a direct insight into the judicial process.
- The main duties of the Fellows are to carry out legal research, writing, collation of materials, editing and other tasks, including attendance in court.
- The requirements for the positions are as follows: a qualified barrister or solicitor and have a 2.1 (or higher) university degree with law as a major component. A strong academic record, a proven ability for legal research and writing; and good IT skills and work methods.
- Judicial Fellows receive a fee of €50,000 for each year of the Fellowship.
- These positions were advertised last in January 2008.

### **10. The Oireachtas Library**

Legal researchers are employed by the Oireachtas to provide research services to support the work of both Houses of the Oireachtas, Oireachtas committees and individual members of the Oireachtas in respect of their parliamentary duties. Legal Researchers are under the supervision of the Head of Research.

The main duties of the researchers are as follows:

- To provide a quality research and analysis service on behalf of Members, Committees and staff of the Oireachtas.
- To provide high quality information services to individual Members and Committees.
- To provide quality assurance for research/information products and services.
- To keep abreast of the information and research requirements of Committees and individual Members.
- To contribute to the development of the Library & Research Service by sharing ideas and experience.

The essential requirements for the jobs are as follows:

- A recognised honours law degree and/or a recognised professional legal qualification.
- A very good knowledge of Irish law.
- The requisite knowledge and skills to fulfil the duties assigned including discipline and thoroughness in conducting research, the ability to liaise with all levels within an organisation, the ability to cope with conflicting demands on time and to work within deadlines, strong interpersonal skills.
- Good computer skills and related technology skills.

Other desirable attributes include:

- A good knowledge of EU law
  - Experience of policy evaluation and statistical analysis
  - Strong oral and written presentation skills
  - Ability to work on own initiative and/or as part of a team
  - Excellent information retrieval skills
- These positions become available from time to time.

## **11. Office of the Parliamentary Legal Adviser<sup>13</sup>**

- Legal Researcher to the Parliamentary Legal Adviser
- This was a new role advertised in national press and on publicjobs.ie in 2007.
- The post was a non-established role – and was not a permanent position.
- No professional qualification was required to be appointed to the post.

## **12. Equality Authority**

The Equality Authority employs a number of people to fulfill roles and to provide a number of services. Vacancies arise in the Equality Authority from time to time. The following is a list of services and roles carried out by the Authority.

- Administration Section
- Library Facilities
- Equality Studies Unit
- Public Information Centre
- Legal Section
- Development Section

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<sup>13</sup> The PLA gives legal advice to the Houses of the Oireachtas in relation to "live" legal issues. The PLA does not perform research on proposed legislation - the Oireachtas Library and Research Service do that work. The PLA is "in-house counsel" and advises on a wide range of issues - contracts, procedure in the Houses, employment law, TDs and Senators entitlements, parliamentary privilege, conduct of proceedings in committees, freedom of information, data protection, electoral law etc.

- Communications Section

### **13. The National Disability Authority**

The National Disability Authority employs full-time researchers some with backgrounds in law. The NDA is divided into the following sections - Policy and Public Affairs, Research and Standards Development, Excellence Through Accessibility, Corporate Services, and the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design

- These positions are advertised through the print media and on their website.
- Generally these positions are full-time permanent positions.

### **14. Legal Aid Board**

The Legal Aid Board also recruits administrative, paralegal and specialist civil service positions from time to time in accordance with the terms of a recruitment license granted to the Board by the Commission for Public Service Appointments.

- The Board also has the option of sourcing new recruits (other than solicitors) from the Public Appointments Service (PAS) who continue to provide a centralised recruitment service for the civil service as a whole.
- They recruit through publicjobs.ie and the print media.

### **15. Commissions of Inquiries**

Commissions on Inquiry have employed law graduates to support their work. (For example, the Ryan and the Murphy Commissions of Inquiry into child abuse).

- They advertise for legal staff from time to time and in accordance with their needs.

### **16. Legal Research for Barristers**

Busy Junior Counsel or very busy Senior Counsel will often employ a researcher on a full-time or part-time basis.

- Often they employ fledgling barristers or law graduates.
- These positions may be advertised or may be filled through informal selection.

## **17. Research Opportunities in Universities**

- There has been a dramatic increase in the research output of Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland over the past number of years.
- Positions as researchers are often advertised for different research projects.
- The minimum job requirements for these positions vary from job to job.
- These positions are advertised regularly.
- The following websites are a good source of information on University research positions and legal academic positions. [Jobs.ac.uk](http://Jobs.ac.uk) and the [legalscholars.ac.uk](http://legalscholars.ac.uk)
- Post-doctorate research positions are regularly advertised.

## 4. Law and Society: Employment and Volunteering Opportunities for Law Graduates

Internships may be very helpful in assisting graduates with career choices. A number of voluntary organisations employ or place law graduates to support their work. Some of these organisations may also run internship programmes. The following is a quick survey of some of these organisations.

### 1. Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC)

Internships are available with FLAC from time to time. These internships offer an opportunity to join the organisation for a specified period. An intern is usually a law student or law graduate who engages in a variety of roles, including information provision, legal research and events organisation. Check the FLAC website at: <http://www.flac.ie/>

See also:

- a) North Side Community Law Centre - <http://www.nclc.ie/>
- b) Ballymun Community Law Centre - <http://www.bclc.ie/>

### 2. Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT)

Employment opportunities arise with the Irish Penal Reform Trust from time to time. Two positions were advertised last year:

- Research and Policy Officer - €49,400
- Campaigns and Communications Officer - €49,400

### 3. Irish Council for Civil Liberties

- Fundraising Officer
- Research and Policy Officer
- Campaigns and Communications Officer

These positions become available from time to time. See the Irish Council for Civil Liberties website for details of positions available.

### 4. Internships in Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's)

Many NGO's advertise for internships each year, for example, Amnesty International. These are voluntary positions for approximately four to six months.

- Vacancies with Amnesty International become available from time to time in Ireland and in other offices abroad.

- The eligibility requirements for these positions vary from job to job. A background in law and in particular human rights law is normally a requirement of positions advertised.

For more information visit:

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/aboutai/default.asp?page=2154&rec=20&pos=1>.

## 5. Employment Opportunities in Europe

The following is a small survey of employment and training opportunities open to law graduates in the European Union and Council of Europe. The minimum requirements for these positions vary depending on the position advertised.

### 1. European Commission

Traineeship Office

- All trainees are awarded a monthly grant of 25% of the basic remuneration for an official at grade AD 5/1 (Commission Decision C/2007/1221). For the March 2009 traineeships, the grant for in-service training has been set at €1047,55 per month.
- For more information see:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/stages/information/traineeship\\_en.htm#Infotab2](http://ec.europa.eu/stages/information/traineeship_en.htm#Infotab2)

### 2. English Language Legal Translators

The European Commission and the ECJ regularly recruit legal translators. The ECJ recruits English-language legal translators to assist with the increasing workload of its English-language Translation Division in Luxembourg. Persons have been recently recruited with proficiency in translating into Irish.

The requirements for these positions:

- Completion of a suitable course in law (i.e. hold a degree in law or its equivalent awarded in the United Kingdom or Ireland) or have qualified as a barrister, advocate or solicitor in the United Kingdom or Ireland
- Have a perfect command of English
- Have a thorough knowledge of French (the Court's working language)
- Have a satisfactory knowledge of a third official language of the European Union
- Have an interest in legal translation
- Knowledge of other official languages of the European Union and relevant professional experience would be an advantage

Selection is by written test and interview:

- The test consists of a translation into English (without a dictionary) of a legal text drafted in French.
- Those selected to work, as legal translators will be offered renewable temporary contracts.

For more information see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/workwithus/trainee/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/workwithus/trainee/index_en.htm)

[http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2009-03/brochure\\_en.pdf](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2009-03/brochure_en.pdf)

### **3. Council of Europe**

There are a number of employment and internship opportunities available through the Council of Europe. The Assistant Lawyers Scheme:<sup>14</sup>

- Applicants must hold a university degree in law – obtained in a Member State of the Council of Europe. Further academic or professional qualifications in law would be an advantage, as would particular expertise and/or experience in the field of human rights protection. In addition, applicants must have a sufficient command of English and/or French to draft legal texts and be familiar with standard professional software programmes.
- One-year contracts are available which are renewable for up to 4 years.
- Recruitment to the Assistant Lawyers' Scheme is by competitive written examination.

Candidates should regularly consult the employment page on the Council of Europe's website for information on recruitment procedures (<http://www.coe.int>). Other vacancies can be viewed at <http://www.coe-recruitment.com/>.

### **4. The European Ombudsman**

#### **Traineeships**

- The Ombudsman offers traineeships, twice a year, primarily to university law graduates. The traineeships take place either in Strasbourg or in Brussels according to the needs of the Office. They generally begin in September and January annually.
- See <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/recruit/en/default.htm>.

### **5. Useful Reference for International Vacancies**

<http://missions.itu.int/~italy/vacancies/vaclinks.htm#EA-ER>

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.echr.coe.int/NR/rdonlyres/4A8AD5FC-CF62-49D8-AF41-E6A8655493D2/0/BrochureEnglish.pdf>