

Catherine O'Connell

Associate, Insolvency and Dispute Resolution, Walkers

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Profile

- Conscientious and focused litigation and dispute resolution lawyer with over 4.5 years' post qualification experience at leading onshore and offshore firms.
- Recognised by clients for being diligent, committed and approachable, with very good interpersonal skills.
- Excellent attention to detail and analytical skills, with an ability to find practical solutions to a range of issues.
- Dual-qualified in both Ireland and England & Wales, and admitted in the British Virgin Islands.

Career overview

Associate	Walkers	September 2018 to present
Solicitor	A&L Goodbody	January 2016 to May 2018
Trainee	A&L Goodbody	April 2013 to December 2015
Intern	A&L Goodbody	June 2012
Intern	DFMG Solicitors	May to August 2011

Experience

British Virgin Islands

- **Freezing Injunctions:** Advising a range of clients on obtaining and defending freezing injunctions. Lead associate on a major piece of recent litigation involving a successful appeal to the Court of Appeal on the availability of *Black Swan* relief.
- **Shareholders Disputes:** Successfully defending a client's right to beneficial ownership of shares in a BVI company in a 5 week trial in the BVI Commercial Court. Responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the trial. Advising a client on an appeal to the Privy Council involving a dispute over the existence of a nominee agreement.
- **Norwich Pharmacal Relief:** Advising a client on obtaining an urgent Norwich Pharmacal order in support of arbitration proceedings in London.
- **Insolvency Proceedings:** Advising clients on a range of issues including instituting winding up proceedings, opposing a sanction application and liquidators' fee applications.
- **Trust Litigation:** Advising a client on various issues arising out of a complex family trust dispute, including successfully obtaining summary judgment against two BVI companies and opposing applications issued by the BVI companies pursuant to Section 246 of the BVI Business Companies Act 2004.

Ireland

- **Administrative Law/Crisis Management:** Advising a major international retailer in relation to two sets of successful emergency High Court judicial review proceedings.

- **Defamation Law:** Advising both plaintiffs and defendants in respect of High Court defamation proceedings. Extensive work in advising Ireland’s regulatory body for aviation in defending two sets of defamation proceedings, including running a Supreme Court appeal concerning the interpretation of a specific provision of the defamation legislation.
- **Regulatory Investigations:** Advising a variety of clients in relation to investigations conducted by the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the Criminal Assets Bureau, the Central Bank of Ireland and the Charities Regulator. Managing a number of large scale document productions to the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement on behalf of one of the largest global retailers.
- **International Dispute Resolution:** Advising the board of a manufacturing company on governing law and jurisdiction issues arising out of guarantees provided by the company to its employees.
- **Product Liability and Personal Injuries:** Defending product liability and personal injuries claims on behalf of a number of global manufacturers. Successfully setting aside a judgment in default of appearance obtained against an international designer and manufacturer of playground equipment.
- **Contract Law:** Advising a financial services provider in relation to the defence of a number of High Court and Circuit Court claims.
- **Company Law:** Providing urgent advice to a listed Irish company in relation to the conduct of a director and the potential consequences under Irish law. Particular focus on directors’ duties, company law offences and corporate governance issues.

Skills

- Adept at fostering solid relationships with, and instilling confidence in, a range of clients.
- Responsible for managing own files and keeping on top of various deadlines.
- Excellent research skills and an ability to apply the law in a practical way.
- Very good drafting skills (pleadings, inter partes correspondence, advices to clients, submissions) with an ability to deliver complex legal concepts in a clear and concise manner.
- Experience in managing proceedings in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, with a well-rounded knowledge of the Civil Procedure Rules.

Education and training

Law Society of Ireland	Diploma in Finance Law	2016
Law Society of Ireland	Professional Practice Course	September 2013 – July 2015
University College Dublin	Bachelor of Civil Law	2008 – 2011
St. Michael’s Catholic Grammar School, London	GCSEs, AS Levels, A Levels	2001 – 2008

Interests

- Fitness - Member of the Castaway Gym and a netball squad in the BVI.
- Reading - Active participant in a book club.
- Travel - Have enjoyed exploring the Caribbean since arriving in the BVI.

References available upon request.