

REPORT ON THE GRÁINNE O'NEILL LEGAL ESSAY COMPETITION by Florence Donoghue

On the 30th of April I was invited to the Law Society of Ireland at Blackhall Place as one of the finalists of the Grainne O'Neill legal essay competition. I was incredibly honoured to be chosen as one of the 30 finalists of the event and it was an experience I will never forget.

The awards ceremony began at 2 o' clock in the Presidents Hall. The chairperson of the Law Society introduced the different speakers such as the President of the Law Society Of Ireland and Grainne O'Neill's father. The President of the Law Society congratulated us on our achievement of getting to the final of the competition while Terry, Gráinne O'Neill's father talked fondly about his daughter and the road she took becoming a judge. He talked about her kind hearted nature and free spirit. He also mentioned the fact that she became the youngest ever judge in Ireland when she was appointed to the District Court Bench in 2014 at the age of 42. We were called up individually to receive our Certificates of Achievement from the President of the Law Society and took a few group photographs. Grainne O' Neill unfortunately passed away in 2018 at the age of only 46, but her legacy continues to live on. To this day she still inspires countless people around the country. I loved being able to participate in the competition and see Blackhall place.