**Curriculum Vitae**

**Conor Patrick Houston**

**Leader | Influencer | Lawyer | Connector | Strategist**

**Integrity | Professionalism | Diplomacy | Excellence | Empowerment**

**Experience**

**Programme Director** [September 2015 – to date]

***Centre for Democracy & Peace Building***

*Belfast, Northern Ireland*

* CDPB is committed to completing the peace process, changing attitudes, building a normal society and sharing the NI experience internationally.
* Design, implement and manage large scale, impactful programmes under direction of Board of Directors;
* Engaged and developed strategic partnerships with Heads of State, senior government, Ambassadors, politicians, senior civic and community leaders to devise solutions to problems in Northern Ireland;
* Building programmes for governments and civil society internationally and obtained significant funding to deliver;
* Collaborate with universities including Oxford and Harvard and with companies including *Twitter;*
* Use interactive and innovative communications strategy, including development of online campaigns and toolkits;
* Programmes have included *Music Unite, Together, Unite Against Hate & Leadership Academy* and event managing *TEDxStormont*;
* Led on *EU Debate NI* – acted as hub between business, public and community sectors to stimulate and inform debate in NI on issues in the UK referendum on continued EU membership. Held events across NI with key influencers. Produced papers, innovative online campaign and gave evidence to UK Parliament.
* Leading on delivering major international conference in April 2018 to mark 20th Anniversary of Good Friday Agreement

**Solicitor Advocate**  [September 2006 – June 2015]

***John J Rice & Co Solicitors***

*Belfast, Northern Ireland*

Experience

* Representation of clients in police stations, Magistrates’ Court, Crown Court and Court of Appeal in human rights /criminal defence role;
* Lead on a number of high profile, pressing reputational and public interest cases on behalf of journalists, religious ministers, politicians, business and celebrity clients;
* Experience in litigation before the High Court of NI, including injunction, judicial review and defamation proceedings;
* Represented clients in Public Inquiries and Supreme Court cases (UK and ROI).

Skills

* Prepare and manage complex cases and programmes and to execute to the highest standards of professional excellence.
* Deal with high-pressure, stressful situations and provide proactive and strategic advice;
* Develop and execute strategies to resolve challenging crises and to find solutions;
* Build genuine long-term relationships with clients based on mutual trust and integrity both locally and internationally;
* To influence, negotiate, mediate and persuade.

**Positions**

***Current***

* Governor *Irish Times Trust* [May 2017 – to date]
* Chairman *Ireland Funds Young Leaders Belfast* [March 2016 – to date]
* Director *Houston Solutions Ltd* [May 2014 – to date]
* Ambassador *Digital DNA* [June 2015 – to date]

***Previous***

* Founding Member *Young Influencers* [March 2014 – May 2017]
* Council Member *Law Society of Northern Ireland* [October 2012 – November 2014]
* Trustee*NSPCC Changing Childhood Appeal* [June 2012 – May 2015]
* Trustee *Literific QUB Debating Society* [May 2012 – May 2015]
* Founding Member*Young Leaders NI* [May 2012 – May 2014]
* Chairman*NI Young Solicitor Association* [September 2011 – January 2013]
* Honorary Secretary*European Young Bar Association (EYBA)* [Jan 2009 – June 2011]

**Achievements**

* **Delegate Speaker –** *One Young World, Bogota Colombia* [October 2017]
* **Co-Founder –** *Islands of Innovation Summit* [September 2017]
* **Honorary Graduate –** *Institute of Professional Legal Studies, QUB* [June 2017]
* **Official Representative of Northern Ireland Delegation**, *The White House* [March 2017]
* **Champion of Belfast Award** – *Belfast City Council* [October 2016]
* **Vice-Chancellor Ulster University Guest Lecture –** *Youth Empowerment* [April 2015]
* **Special Commendation Award** *Law Society of Northern Ireland Recognition Awards* [November 2009]
* **Winner** - Louis M. Brown, International Client Counseling Competition *National Law School of India University, Bangalore* [April 2008]
* **Finalist** – Irish Times Debating Final, *Dublin* [February 2008]

**Qualifications**

Professional

Qualifications **Certificate in Advanced Advocacy**

*Institute of Professional Legal Studies, QUB & National Institute for Trial Advocacy* [September 2012]

**Solicitor**

Roll of Supreme Court of Judicature Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland

*Law Society of NI* [September 2008] & *Law Society of Ireland* [June 2014]

**Certificate in Professional Legal Studies**

*Institute of Professional Legal Studies, QUB* [June 2008]

Postgraduate Degree **LL.M Human Rights (Cross-Border)**

*Queen’s University, Belfast & National University of Ireland, Galway* [December 2006]

Certificates **Fellow**

*Hammamet Conference, Tunisia (Hosted by British Council)* [November 2016]

**UK National Leader**

*Ship for World Young Leaders programme (Hosted by Government of Japan)*

*Japan* [January/ February 2015]

**Professional Fellow**

*US State Department Rule of Law Professional Fellows Programme*

*Boston/ Washington DC* [October/ November 2014]

**Certificate of Attendance**

*European Public Law Organisation Academy*

*Sounion, Greece* [September 2004]

Undergraduate

Degree **2.1 LL.B Law**

*Queen’s University, Belfast* [July 2004]

A Level 3 **A grades** [June 2001]

GCSE 9 **A\*-A grades** [June 1999]

**References**

Lord Alderdice

Chairman, CDPB

55 Knock Road

Belfast

BT5 6LB

[Lordalderdice@democracyandpeace.org](mailto:Lordalderdice@democracyandpeace.org)

Hugo MacNeill

Director, Goldman Sachs

70 Sir John Rogerson’s Quay

Grand Canal Dock

Dublin

[Hugo.macneill@gs.com](mailto:Hugo.macneill@gs.com)

**Contact Details**

 +44 7930 967694

 [conorhouston0@gmail.com](mailto:conorhouston0@gmail.com).  <http://uk.linkedin.com/in/conorhouston>

**Links**

•Opinion: “Relationships: The price of Peace” (January 2017)

<http://www.northernslant.com/relationships-the-price-of-peace/>

•Opinion: “Establishing a Brexit Convention for NI" (February 2017)

[http://democracyandpeace.org/opinion-a-brexit-convention-for-northern-ireland/](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/0e6c8b2c39027753dbab9827f65dd6a641350420?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdemocracyandpeace.org%2Fopinion-a-brexit-convention-for-northern-ireland%2F&signature=6e0015e2f4e8150a)

•Podcast: "Why you should always follow your heart & your passion" interview with author Jamie Smart (April 2017)

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-results-mindset-podcast/id1173476690?mt=2&i=1000385029831>

•Speech: “It’s all about relationships!”  delivered at One Young World | Bogota 2017 | 1500 young leaders|196 countries (October 2017)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?list=PLp7iueYZU6DyB9R3Yh_8YBhWxUhgeiltY&index=33&v=oRqQU9UtTUk>

•Workshop: “Connected Citizens” video with Active Citizens Network, Colombia (October 2017)

<https://youtu.be/OfHySrEuzDo>

•Opinion: “Relationships: The Bridge Between Principles & Practicalities” (November 2017)

<https://sluggerotoole.com/2017/12/01/relationships-the-bridge-between-principles-practicalities/>