

# businessbytes

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## Jacquelyn Dunne taking care of business

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BY  
SANDRA  
QUINN

through every obstacle to get to where she is today, with her own solicitor practice.

Jacquelyn launched Dunne Solicitors on May 13 this year, offering a diverse range of services, including residential and commercial purchase and sales, letting agreements, will and estate planning, employment and family law, personal injury claims

and debt collecting.

Speaking about how Dunne Solicitors came about, Jacquelyn told *The Avondu* that she always wanted to be a solicitor, but when she found herself ten points short of a law degree, she didn't let this phase her.

The strong-willed young woman pursued another degree, and on completion she moved home to study by herself for the Blackhall Place exams to become a solicitor.

### FOLLOW YOUR AMBITION

With the Leaving Cert results coming out in a matter of days, she had some advice for worried students. "I was one of those students who didn't get their first CAO choice. I remember my mother being far more upset than I was because I knew that this was not going to stop me becoming a solicitor."

"With determination and hard work, I got the career I wanted. Failing to get the points you want, doesn't mean you can't have the career you desire, there are always other roads that can be taken to get there, albeit longer and tougher roads, but if you

just like me," she said.

While many solicitors-to-be have lecturers, tutors, grinds and a library of information at their fingertips while studying for the gruelling Blackhall Place exams, Jacquelyn had will and determination.

"I passed, but it was hard - I used to get up at 7am every morning and study relentlessly all day every day for ten whole months. While I was studying, a lot of my friends had jobs and were buying cars or thinking about getting houses. They thought I was mad but I stuck with it," she said.

However, passing the exams was only the first step, as she still had to secure an apprenticeship.

Again Jacquelyn's sheer determination shone through, as she sent out 200 CV's and cold-called to almost half of those offices looking for an apprenticeship, which she finally got with a local firm.

"My apprenticeship lasted two and a half years. I will always be indebted to my apprenticeship masters for their time and patience, teaching me all the



firm. In July 2008, I qualified as a solicitor and I now needed to look for a permanent position, but it was at the wrong time, being the start of the downturn.

"Again, just like when I was looking for my apprenticeship, none of the hundreds of firms I contacted were hiring, so I took the plunge and went back to a firm where I had originally called to and offered to work for nothing. I realised that if I stayed unemployed as a qualified solicitor, with no experience, I could say goodbye to a career in law. I was delighted when they offered to pay me and I stayed there

### FLEXIBLE APPROACH

For those five years, Jacquelyn received a lot of invaluable experience working for a rural firm in the locality, but she said that working in a firm made her realise how restrictive firm hours are for clients, who have to fit appointments in around their own lives and work.

This is one of the things which spurred her on to operate from home, where she could offer people evening or weekend appointments as well as normal business hours.

She added that she also visits clients in their own homes or arranges appointments in the

talk to her in a relaxed setting with private consultations at an hour that suits them.

Jacquelyn is one of seven Tierney siblings from New Inn in Tipperary and is now married to Noel Dunne in Kildorrery.

Bizarrely, three of the Tierney sisters ended up settling within miles of each other in Kildorrery, so she would have known a lot of people in the locality before she set up as a sole practitioner.

Coming from a farming background, one of Jacquelyn's other speciality areas would be farming transfers and

"With my family background, I would be very aware of the difficulties faced by farmers and the legal questions they might have," she told *The Avondu*.

Since starting out on her own, Jacquelyn has been overwhelmed with the support and well wishes from those around her and would like to acknowledge this.

"Setting up a business in the recession is of course daunting, but the strong support I am getting, certainly spurs me on and for that I am so appreciative - thank you."