

OBITUARY

Emer Casey

6 June 1978 – 10 June 2006



Emer, a native of Youghal, County Cork, and a newly-qualified solicitor, passed away on 10 June 2006, but the illness that took her probably never met a more brave, optimistic or uncomplaining opponent.

Emer was only 28 years of age, but in her short lifetime she touched so many people, making a profound impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing her. The town of Youghal, the UCC law class of 1997, the Blackhall class of 2002 and the law firm Matheson Ormsby Prentice were all shocked to have lost one of the most vibrant personalities in their midst.

Emer graduated from the Loreto Secondary School in 1997 and chose to study Law and French in UCC. She made close friends in the law class, with time for a chat with everyone. Emer spent her Erasmus year in Rennes, followed by a J-1 summer in America. Having lived with medical students in UCC, Emer was probably the only lawyer invited to the UCC doctors' weekend away every year! In Blackhall, Emer made great friends in her tutorial group and revelled in her new life in Dublin. Being a keen sportswoman, Emer got involved in the Calcutta and BUPA runs and, ever the traveller, she sought out such far-flung destinations as Egypt, Thailand and Argentina.

She joined Matheson Ormsby Prentice as a trainee solicitor in September 2002. She quickly brought her boundless enthusiasm to every aspect of her life within the firm. Emer's strong work ethic and diligence were noted by all with whom she worked, but her sense of humour was also always evident, and very useful in stressful moments. Emer combined her busy workload with participating in all of the firm's voluntary activities, juggling organising the tag rugby team with her star role as the Christmas elf at the firm's children's Christmas party.

She decided to join Matheson Ormsby Prentice's private client practice on qualification as a solicitor in May 2005. She dedicated herself to developing her successful career, managing to combine professionalism and pragmatism with a wonderful ability to establish a kind and caring rapport with her clients.

She had the gift of taking her work, but not herself, seriously. She had a great sense of humour and a contagious sense of fun. Emer loved her music and was known as the 'Human Jukebox' because she would sing out the tunes one after the other. Everyone has their own favourite memory of her, whether it be sporting events, chats, nights out or her unrivalled ability as a *seanchaí* to turn ordinary happenings into the most sparkling of yarns.

She had a precious commodity, which she shared with people – she gave them her time; and no matter who they were, Emer treated them

all as equals. She was a true, down-to-earth Cork girl with a fierce love for her county, the GAA, her friends and, most of all, her family. Her flatmates christened her the 'Phone Baby' because she would spend hours on the phone chatting to her four sisters: Julie, Annalee, Susan and Ruth.

Emer had the rare gift of being totally content and happy in herself. This was clear after climbing Croagh Patrick last summer, when she was asked what she had prayed for in the church and exclaimed, "Sure what could you ask for on a day like this? Don't we have our health and great friends and family – all you can do is be grateful."

In commemoration of Emer, and especially to try to perpetuate her positive outlook and what her colleagues have described as "her interest in being involved in projects that make a difference to quality-of-life for people", Matheson Ormsby Prentice, with Emer's family, is establishing a charity called the Emer Casey Foundation.

The sense of loss to Emer's friends and colleagues is enormous, but it is nothing compared with the loss to her beloved parents, Brendan and Juliette, and her sisters, Julie, Annalee, Susan and Ruth. Emer was an inspirational and special person, who was deeply loved and we, her friends and colleagues, miss her dearly. *Ar dheis Dé go raibb a b-anam.* **G**

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