23 Talbot Court

Castleknock

Dublin 15

23 February 2016

Dear Sir Madam,

I am interested in taking part in the summer internship at Byrne Wallace.

I have been an intern in the healthcare department in Hayes from the February 2015 to December 2015. I gained significant experience whilst working in Hayes Solicitors. I had the opportunity to attend settlement meetings and mediations. I have been involved in trial preparation as part of a team and have often had the opportunity to draft instructions for counsel and experts, draft legal documents and liaise with experts and counsel.

Before working at Hayes I worked for Sheehan and Partners. This gave me the opportunity to become accustomed to the Irish legal system. At this time I assisted in the preparation for the many cases going to trial. I was also present at trial and client consultations. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with Sheehan and Partners.

After my Leaving Certificate I went on to study Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice in Liverpool John Moore’s University and I achieved an overall degree grade of 2:1. I chose to go to university in the UK because my interest was in criminology and I was able to do my preferred degree at John Moore’s University in Liverpool, whereas in Ireland such an option was not available. I thoroughly enjoyed my course, especially the modules concerning the criminal justice system.

During my degree I had the opportunity to take both criminal law and psychology modules. The law lectures helped me discover that it was a career in law that I was interested in pursuing. In my final year there were optional modules from which we could choose and I chose those involving the criminal justice system. There was a compulsory Forensic Psychology module and a dissertation. Forensic psychology dealt with the psychology behind crime and how psychology can be used in reducing reoffending. I chose to do my dissertation on victims of long-term domestic violence who kill their abuser and how the self-defence law should/could be used in a court of law by these individuals. The optional modules I chose were all criminal justice modules; Sex, Crime and Society (learning about the laws surrounding sex crime in the UK primarily based on the Sexually Offences Act 2003), Crime and Security in the EU (learning about workings of the EU and international criminal justice systems), and Crimes of the Powerful (learning about criminology in terms of those in power).

Currently I am studying at the Honorable Society of the Kings Inns completing a Diploma in Legal Studies. I have chosen to complete a Diploma in Legal Studies as I would like to have a legal qualification in Ireland and this course provides me with lectures on the core legal modules. This is a two year Diploma of which I have completed one. I will complete this Diploma in May 2016. The legal modules that I cover are contract law, constitutional law, land law, family law, law of torts, criminal law, law of evidence, EU law, human rights law, company law, equity, and administrative law.

I will be taking five FE1 exams this March.

I would love the opportunity to work in Byrne Wallace as a legal intern and would appreciate the opportunity to interview for the position.

Kind regards,

Áine Ó Murchu