16 October, 2023

Trainee Solicitor Recruitment Manager

ByrneWallace LLP

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2, D02 DK18

Dear Trainee Solicitor Recruitment Manager:

I am writing to express my interest in the Trainee Solicitor Programme at ByrneWallace commencing in September 2024. The outstanding expertise of the firm, particularly in the areas of company, corporate, EU and competition law appears to be a perfect fit with my academic background, professional interests, experience and my career goals.

Recently, I worked as a Legal Researcher in the Competition Law team of Mason Hayes and Curran LLP. This direct interaction with practice has clarified my long-term goals and determined me to pursue a career in practising as a solicitor as opposed to continuing a career in academia.

Prior to working at Mason Hayes and Curran, I pursued a Doctor of Philosophy degree at University College Dublin. My research thesis focused on EU competition law damages actions and has considered the research issue both from the regulator and litigants’ perspectives. During my time at UCD I also lectured EU Economic Law and tutored EU Constitutional Law, hence my interest in EU law generally and more specifically in competition, company and corporate law, as well as in litigation arising in these areas. My research activity has been generously sponsored by Matheson, which also facilitated my interaction with well-regarded practitioners during my PhD. This has stirred-up my interest in becoming a practitioner in one of Ireland’s top performing law firms since the early stages of my research degree.

I consider that my academic background and practical experience have provided me with the credentials needed to thrive as a trainee solicitor at ByrneWallace. My academic journey demonstrates a high level of ambition as well as the development of some of the most important skills for the role. In particular, I gained valuable team-working skills while participating in research groups, organising conferences and working on group research projects. Furthermore, during my PhD programme I gained considerable experience in legal writing, communicating and presenting legal arguments, project management, time management and also working with limited supervision. Considering that ByrneWallace has expertise in all areas of law in which I am interested and works with high level clients including multi-nationals and public sector bodies, I would have the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills to their fullest.

I am readily available via email or phone in order to arrange an interview. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I appreciate your consideration and enthusiastically look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alexandru Soptica