

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a legal assistant and a recent graduate of European Studies. I am applying to the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme, 2021.

I have worked as a legal assistant with Denis McSweeney Solicitors since March 2019. It has been an invaluable experience to work in a busy practice that deals with litigation, family, company and property law. My role has required me to adapt to a variety of work from organising mediation to attending on Counsel in the High Court. This experience has heightened my ability to work efficiently and diligently in a fast paced environment.

I have completed the FE-1 examinations. To prepare for these examinations I enrolled in a preparatory course. The lectures were interesting and enjoyable. The high grades which I achieved in all eight subjects are not only testament to my hard work and dedication, but are also indicative of my commitment to pursuing a career in law.

At present I am participating in two Virtual Work Experience Programmes because I am eager to gain practical legal awareness. The content is pragmatic and ranges from advising a client on a 'force majeure' clause to preparing a witness statement for a litigation claim.

In 2018 I graduated from Trinity College with a 2:1 in European Studies. My degree permitted me to choose a variety of modules that gave me an interdisciplinary education in areas such as European history, political science and sociology, further developing my ability to interpret complex theories and critically analyse texts. A language based degree enabled me to improve my language skills in both Spanish and Italian. In my third year of university I had the opportunity to study in the University of Zaragoza, Spain. This was a formative experience and benefited me as an enriching cultural exchange.

Throughout my time in University I developed excellent communication and interpersonal skills. My degree required me to participate in group work and give presentations, while my role as Illustrations Editor for The University Times, one of Ireland's most prestigious student newspapers, required me to work well within a team.

I have a keen interest in law and commerce and I enjoy keeping abreast of developments in the business world. I am excited by the prospect of working with clients who are involved in major national and international commercial transactions. The firm's recent advising of ING Bank in relation to the financing of a portfolio of three wind farms is exactly the type of case I would like to work on as a trainee. ByrneWallace is a leading law firm in real estate and property and energy and natural resources. I am eager to learn about the work involved in these areas, particularly in relation to project financing. Furthermore, I am impressed by the high profile work which ByrneWallace is involved in with clients such as Iberdrola and Patrizia Immobilien.

My experience of the legal world has cultivated a desire to work in one of Ireland's leading commercial law firms. ByrneWallace is a dynamic and progressive law firm. I watched the ByrneWallace Trainee Insights Webinar and I was impressed by the firm's dedication to supporting female solicitors, exemplified by its attainment of gender parity at partner level. As a graduate of European Studies, having benefited from a multidisciplinary education, I appreciate the creativity and innovation that comes from diversity. I want to complete a traineeship with a firm like ByrneWallace which values this as much as I do.

The professional training provided by ByrneWallace will ensure that I gain practical legal awareness and exposure to clients from day one. The firm's open plan office and collegial culture means that trainees are working with and learning from solicitors who are experts in

their field. Moreover, the programme's multifaceted support structure will enable me to take on greater responsibility.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application.

Yours faithfully,
Alice McKenna