25/10/20

Dear Emily Murray,

One of the main reasons I consider myself suitable for the role of a Trainee and a future lawyer is because I have an inquisitive and analytical mind. I am often asked why I chose to study History and not Law and think R.G Collingwood summed it up perfectly when he said, “*History is for human self-knowledge… the only clue to what man can do is what man has done. The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is*.” I chose history as it allows me to be curious and to question and debate how our world works, through shared human experiences.

Studying History has enabled me to develop perspective, strong research, organisational skills and attention to detail which I believe will stand to me when drafting and negotiating contracts. I want to pursue a career in a corporate firm like ByrneWallace as my strengths lie in my ability to problem solve, my ambition, and that I like a challenge.

I want to pursue a life-long and sustainable career. My work experience in both private practice and in-house, has given me a real-life experience and develop an understanding of working as a solicitor. I am passionate about the future and have a keen interest in the renewable energy and life sciences sectors, which ByrneWallace has strong expertise in.

Working as a trainee in a large firm like ByrneWallace appeals to me as I enjoy working with people. Both my college and personal life have enabled me to do this. In college, I lead a team of writers as Deputy Societies Editor of the University Times and work alongside my other committee members as PRO for the Caledonian Society. Throughout college I have worked part-time jobs at weekends, which has strengthened my communication and customer service skills, my time-management, as well as being able to work in a fast-paced environment under pressure. On a more personal note, I have competed as part of a team at a national level in both athletics and horse-riding. I believe that the diversity of my experiences aligns with ByrneWallace’s collaborative ethos.

I understand that there is a strong educational culture at ByrneWallace, that I too strive to achieve in both my personal and academic life. I currently am on a First-Class Honours (75%) and was selected on an exchange-based scholarship to study in California where I was exposed to different cultures and perspectives. Moving from Cork to Dublin to study at Trinity as well as travel to India and Canada has increased my sense of independence, my ability to work individually, as well as my willingness to learn.

I would like to join an international law firm like ByrneWallace to develop a long-term career with a leading practice, with strong values and sense of corporate responsibility, not just to qualify and move on. I understand that being a good lawyer requires sheer hard work, versatility and the ability to cope with difficult circumstances, and while I do not come from a traditional legal degree, I have worked hard to develop these traits.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Symington