

ALYAH ABDULRASHID

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Re: Application for the Trainee Solicitor Programme

To whom It may concern,

It is with great interest that I am applying for the Trainee Solicitor Programme with Byrne Wallace. By way of background, I am a Maynooth University Law and Business graduate with extensive office experience gained in the financial services industry over the past two years. Becoming a solicitor is my ultimate professional goal, and to be a trainee at Byrne Wallace with the hope of further progressing is a vital steppingstone in fulfilling that goal.

For the last two years, I am employed by State Street, one of the world's largest servicers and managers of institutional assets. At the Depository Department, we ensure investor protection and are responsible for the safekeeping of funds' assets. At State Street, I assist (among other things) in reviewing contracts and fund documentation, performing due diligence checks prior to on-boarding, and ensuring service level agreements are in place. My work requires communication and co-operation with the in-house legal department as well as strong customer service.

Outside of work, I enjoy getting involved in voluntary work. I partook in several charitable initiatives including a '5k Run for Yemen' organised by Islamic Relief Ireland. I raised €300 with the added benefit of having friends and family taking part. Similarly, I volunteered at the Barretstown Press Play Pop-Up at Kildare Village. My role involved attracting the shoppers to the pop-up shop to inform them about Barretstown, and the life-changing work that they do. This was an eye-opening experience as I got to meet a volunteer who personally benefited from the services provided by Barretstown. Further, State Street took part in the North East Inner City of Dublin (NEIC) Work Experience Initiative. This programme was set up to enable secondary school students to gain access and insight into the professions and career paths outside their existing network. My role as a volunteer involved welcoming the students, and assisting them in career workshops and projects they were tasked with completing while at State Street.

Byrne Wallace's dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility is an encouraging factor in my decision to apply to the trainee programme. Similarly, the firms' Publications & Insights covering a range of practice areas is useful to me as an aspiring solicitor and gives a bird's eye view of legal news in Ireland and how it applies to Byrne Wallace's clients. Seeing the firm host webinars about 'Remote Working' shows its forward-thinking attitude and innovative approach to tackling the new challenges brought about by COVID -19. Further, attending the Trainee Insights Webinar allowed me to gain more in-depth knowledge about the trainee programme. Having the opportunity to gain insight into the life of the legal professionals at Byrne Wallace would be an invaluable experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything else.

Yours faithfully,

Alyah Abdulrashid