

Dear Beth,

My name is Andrew Crawford and I am applying for the role of Trainee Solicitor in your firm. I graduated from NUI Galway with a Bachelor in Civil Law, and from UCD with a Masters Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. I have also passed all eight of my FE-1 exams. I believe that the firm an individual trains with fundamentally shapes their career in law and as such, I want to be in a firm that is driven by talent and succeeds through teamwork while putting client's needs at the forefront of their business. I believe Byrne Wallace best represents these qualities.

I believe that I possess all of the requisite skills to flourish in this role. I have accumulated a wealth of hands-on, frontline legal experience throughout the course of my employment. As legal executive for a small, startup practice I was given a significant amount of freedom to use my own initiative and deal directly with clients in person, over the phone and via written correspondence. I worked in a highly pressurised, fluid environment and was tasked with formulating efficient systems upon which the administration of the office centred around. I gained an invaluable insight into the inner workings of the criminal justice system from a criminal defence standpoint, while also working extensively in the areas of employment law, conveyancing, wills & probate and personal injuries.

As a legal researcher during my internship for the Director of Public Prosecutions, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the public prosecution side of the criminal justice system, which proved to be an eye-opening contrast with my previous experience in criminal defence. In this role I honed my skills as a legal researcher on "fringe" cases, where I would make a recommendation on potential avenues of prosecution where a clear path of prosecution may not be readily apparent. Through this, I developed a strong analytical ability when reviewing legislation, case law and case files.

As a Financial Services Specialist in my current employment at Shopify, I have enjoyed a quasi-legal role where I have been tasked with managing and supporting the tax affairs and related queries of our US-based merchants while liaising closely with our payment processing partners at Stripe regarding issues with compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations. I was involved in reviewing our company's data protection and privacy obligations following the passing of the General Data Protection Regulation. Our department works closely with Shopify's Legal team so I have gained a nuanced insight into their work with DMCA takedowns and intellectual property violations on the platform.

I hope that I have demonstrated, along with my attached CV, that my qualifications and professional legal experience to date would make me an excellent candidate for this role. I believe I would bring strong communication and interpersonal skills to the work effort and be a versatile and valuable asset to your firm as a whole.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Andrew Crawford

