Bajan Lodge, Castletroy, Limerick.

 18/09/2018

Dear Beth Onslow,

I am an LLM graduate from the London School of Economics and Political Science and I am writing to apply for a training contract at Byrne Wallace beginning 2019/2020. I am a graduate of the BCL (International) at University College Cork, scholarship recipient at UC Berkeley and former International law student at Harvard. I have most recently worked as a paralegal for Simmons & Simmons LLP in London. This position has given me insight into work in a busy law firm, enabling me to further develop my ability to work under pressure and to deadlines.

I chose Byrne Wallace because it is the only top ten law firm in Ireland with Lexcel accreditation and is the first and only Irish law firm certified with ISO 27001. This highlights the firm’s strong reputation in practice management, client service and information security management. Another motivating factor for my application to Byrne Wallace is the high-profile nature of the work. It was fascinating to read that the firm advised on a $50 million series funding round between Browserstack and Accel, believed to be one of the largest single funding rounds ever concluded in the Irish market. This deal incentivised me to apply to Byrne Wallace because it illustrates the opportunity to engage in complex cross border transactions and liaise with the firm’s international offices. Furthermore, the international outlook of the firm coupled with its contribution to a key government initiative to promote Ireland as a jurisdiction of excellence for international dispute resolution in the wake of Brexit would provide a diverse and challenging training experience. I chose Byrne Wallace because of the unique opportunity to be mentored by a partner in each of the four departments covered during the training contract.

While at university, my experience working for several large companies solidified my intention to pursue a career in commercial law, as I thoroughly enjoyed developing strong working relationships with clients and understanding their commercial aspirations. Serving as the auditor of a free legal aid clinic also affirmed my commitment to become a solicitor, as I appreciated the opportunity to work collaboratively and provide creative solutions tailored to our clients’ problems. My role as a paralegal at several international law firms has only served to strengthen my desire to pursue a career in commercial law, as it has allowed me to gain a real insight and understanding into the daily tasks of highly skilled legal and business advisors. I have learned that life in a law firm is not just about applying the law. It also involves business development, marketing, networking, meeting billing and chargeable hours targets, client care and client management. This variety and commercial elements attract me to the profession. My experience working on high profile cases for domestic and international clients and the fast-paced nature of the work continues to drive me towards a career as a solicitor in a global commercial law firm. Lastly, shadowing counsel for the Guardian UK has also affirmed my decision to pursue a career as a solicitor rather than as a barrister after witnessing the greater emphasis on team-work and the opportunity to see a case from start to finish as a solicitor.

I am conﬁdent that I possess the skills, attributes and experience required to form a valuable addition to your team. Thank you for taking the time to read my cover letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Annemarie Shea