Bláithín Sharkey

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my interest in a traineeship position with Byrne Wallace. With a law degree, hands-on experience in various areas of legal support, and six of my FE1s passed, awaiting results for my last two, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to join your firm.

I am currently a Criminal defence legal executive in KOD Lyons LLP, a public interest firm. My work here consists of drafting and submitting High Court bail applications, European Arrest Warrant applications and driving license restoration applications. In this role coordinate bench warrant executions. I also cover miscellaneous Criminal defence solicitor follow ups including police property applications, listing matters and extension of time to appeal applications.

My secondment at Threshold provided me with invaluable experience as a member of the Advocacy Team, focusing on policy and legal matters within the residential rented sector. During this time, I conducted legal analysis and offered insights on significant legislation, including the Planning and Development Bill 2023, the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025, and the Registration of Short-Term Tourist Lettings Bill 2022. Additionally, I co-ran the weekly legal clinic, assisting advisory staff in preparing for hearings before the Residential Tenancies Board and the Workplace Relations Commission. This experience honed my ability to collaborate with legal officers, develop effective advocacy strategies, and emphasise key legal points in cases.

My background at Beauchamps LLP as a legal executive in the housing department has equipped me with practical skills in managing legal files, drafting documentation, and providing support to solicitors. These responsibilities have sharpened my problem-solving capabilities and my ability to deliver high-quality work within deadlines. I have developed strong organisational skills, excellent verbal and written communication abilities, and a meticulous attention to detail, all of which are essential for managing and updating files, records, and databases efficiently.

My undergraduate degree in history and law, along with my postgraduate LLB, has given me a keen analytical mindset and the ability to apply theoretical concepts to practical legal scenarios. I have passed six FE1 exams and awaiting the results of my final two, demonstrating my commitment to pursuing my career as a solicitor.

Enclosed is my updated CV, which outlines my experience at KOD Lyons, Threshold and Beauchamps, and the skills I have acquired. I am excited about the opportunity to bring my insights and knowledge to your firm while also learning and contributing to new challenges. I am confident that my strong work ethic, attention to detail, and passion for law make me a valuable addition to your team.

I am attracted to the well-structured and enriching trainee program offered by Byrne Wallace LLP. The breadth of practice areas not only reflects the firm's versatility but also provides trainees with the invaluable opportunity to gain hands-on experience across various legal disciplines, including Corporate Law, Litigation, Property, and Employment Law. I am excited about the prospect of engaging with such a diverse range of specialties, allowing me to develop a comprehensive understanding of the law. The opportunity to work alongside Ireland’s top legal minds and contribute to high-profile cases and complex transactions that shape the future of law is particularly appealing. Additionally, the firm's diverse client base, which includes healthcare providers, leading international retailers, media and advertising groups, financial institutions, public bodies, and private individuals, further fuels my enthusiasm for joining Byrne Wallace LLP.

Thank you for your time. I would be extremely grateful to be considered for an interview for this position and an opportunity to share more about my experience and passion for the legal field.

Sincerely,

Blaithin Sharkey