

St. Edmunds
Kerrymount Avenue
Foxrock
Dublin 18

HR Manager
Byrne Wallace
88 Harcourt St,
Dublin 2

20th October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace. I am pursuing a career as a commercial solicitor after a year of practical legal experience. I graduated with a BCL degree from UCD achieving fifth place in my class with a high 2:1. I have also recently completed all eight of my FE-1 examinations.

I am hardworking, commercially-aware and a quick learner. These characteristics have earned me a high degree of responsibility at the Bimeda/Sterimol/Baymount Groups and an extension to my nine-month contract one of an indefinite duration. I have competently handled the demanding commercial environment and gained experience inter alia in corporate governance, company secretarial, property, shareholder agreements and commercial contracts. Thus, working with the general counsel on a daily basis provided me with a valuable insight into the trials and tribulations of a global company, and the role of the legal department in protecting the company's commercial interests.

As well as gaining a general picture of the running of a company, and the inter-relationship and dependence among faculties, I have also been given the opportunity to voice my areas of interest and have taken the initiative to involve myself in projects relating to same. Accordingly, I have been involved in the consolidation, standardisation and amendment of clauses in our employment contracts across the globe. I also volunteered to begin the process of having the Groups compliant with the GDPR by May 2018. Thus I prepared a board paper outlining the consequences and changes to be brought about by the Regulation and suggested the steps Bimeda could take to avoid the large fines. I presented my succinct synopsis on the extensive literature on data protection and recommendations to the General Counsel who made a decision based on same which obtained board approval. My experience has also prompted my appreciation of the fluidity of the law and that each sector is not water-tight. Thus I enjoyed incorporating my learnings in both the employment and data protection sector when I read on Lexology that organisations were increasingly needing a "Bring Your Own Device" to work policy (BYOD). Having alerted my mentor to this development she allowed me to organise a meeting with our IT manager and HR director. There I sought to identify the practice in the Groups and explained the new "best practice model" to them, so that together we could identify any shortcomings by the company. It became clear that a policy regarding BYOD needed to be drafted. I was delighted to draft same and it will now be included in the latest employee handbook to be released by the end of the year. Thus my rewarding experience at Bimeda has solidified my decision to qualify in a commercial firm.

While at secondary school the humanitarian aspect of the law drew my attention to the profession, my interest in commercial law first developed at university. In second year I excelled in an EU Economic Law module obtaining an A+. I consequently decided to attend the Universita Luigi Bocconi, in Milan on Erasmus as it is one of the leading business universities in Europe. This proved to be an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into the world of commerce where I attended talks by leading business moguls such as Donatella Versace. I really enjoyed my business law modules in which I scored highly,

achieving 28/30 in Trade Law. In practice I have enjoyed learning and challenging myself which commercial law certainly facilitates in its constant evolving state, with invariably new challenges solicitors will need to navigate on behalf of their clients. In addition, the ubiquitous nature of law is intriguing, as practitioners are expected to advise on very specific issues for their clients. Thus the contextualisation process before resolving the issues/disputes is one of my favourite parts of the job e.g. gathering the facts for potential product liability claims, or potential unfair dismissal claims and advising the commercial team whether there's a case before writing settlement letters.

I would greatly welcome the offer of a training contract with Byrne Wallace as your enthusiasm to solve the constant challenges presented in commercial law render you a forward-looking firm that would enable me to reach my goal of being involved at the forefront of ground-breaking legal developments. More specifically, your firm has stood out to me on several fronts. You are a top tier employment law firm which is an area I have forged an interest in practice working on data access requests, unfair dismissal claims (I am currently preparing a file for an appearance in the WRC) and as aforementioned. Your specialist team however uniquely conduct their own advocacy in Rights Commissioners hearings, the Employment Appeals Tribunal and Labour Court which has particularly resonated with me as I thoroughly enjoyed my participation in the "Cecil Lavery Mooting Competition" at university where my team reached the quarter finals. Thus, your firm uniquely presents the opportunity to participate in advocacy which has been a significant consideration of mine when applying to your firm.

Furthermore, you are a top tier firm in the Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical sector. I have enjoyed drafting complex commercial contracts, confidentiality agreements and being involved in potential product liability claims. Thus, Byrne Wallace presents the opportunity for me to build on these experiences with market leaders such as Colin Sainsbury. I also had exposure to medical negligence claims while interning at McDowell Purcell which has the Medical Council as a major client.

Finally, your values of hard work, constant improvement, teamwork and camaraderie align with my own. It is important that I join a firm that has the determination not only to lead the industry in today's problems but has an appetite to keep competing for the biggest contracts. This competitive spirit striving for excellence aligns with my own as I aim to be part of firm that is giving the cutting-edge advice on major transactions. Your culture of betterment is expounded by the environment of collaboration. I am a seasoned team player from hockey, working as barista, academically and most relevantly working as part of a small in-house legal team which has provided me with the valuable opportunity to build strong relationships with my legal colleagues but also with the client. Thus I also have excellent customer facing skills which may also be attributed to working at Thru the Green coffee company, where I built rapport with customers leading to endorsements on social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram by celebrities including Amy Huberman and Jamie Heaslip. My ability to work well on a team reflects my ability to get on well with people and I have been fortunate to find a great community atmosphere in each of the places that I have worked and studied. For example, last year on my travels I stayed with my Thai friends in Bangkok and Australian friends in Sydney and Brisbane while traveling. Thus, I look forward to participating in the social side of your firm.

I have demonstrated the necessary skillset, potential and interest to obtain the most out of a career with Byrne Wallace and I welcome the opportunity to demonstrate my suitability to your firm at interview stage. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours faithfully,

Caoimhe Hickey