

# Catherine Finnegan

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Trainee Solicitor Recruitment team  
ByrneWallace LLP  
88 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2

15 October 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am ready to bring my unique skill set to ByrneWallace's trainee programme. I have over four years of professional experience in a regulatory body leading the administration team supporting a busy in-house Legal function and am currently expanding my skills with the Law Society of New South Wales. I have a record of academic excellence, graduating with a 2.1 LLB from Trinity College Dublin and I have passed all FE-1 exams. Being a well-rounded team member is important to me as I was involved in several groups in my role with the Pensions Authority including the social committee and a change management group.

I have a track record of high-quality legal work, as I used my legal background and my ongoing development through the FE1 exams to expand on my administrative duties to work directly with many of the lawyers on legal functions within the Pensions Authority. I have experience in preparing prosecutions for the District Court, drafting and serving summonses, drafting instructions for agent solicitors and attending court with the prosecuting solicitor. I employed my excellent organisation skills to prepare and proof complex and lengthy Briefs to Counsel and was involved in one High Court application. I managed the administration of bespoke procurement tenders for legal services including initial contract reviews, evaluation of responses and establishing relationships with partners in top law firms.

Following completion of my FE1 exams, I have temporarily relocated to Australia where I now work in the Trust Accounts Department of the Law Society. I have demonstrated that my legal skills are transferable in a new jurisdiction and have had the opportunity to work on varied projects including an in-depth review of the multi-jurisdictional accreditation process for accounting software ensuring it complies with all the relevant legal provisions. This exposure to new legislation required legal research skills and the ability to adapt and absorb new information very quickly. This depth of knowledge and experience is what I will bring to ByrneWallace and I am confident I will be able to contribute at a high level very quickly.

ByrneWallace is the firm I want to train with as it has established itself as a real presence in the Irish market with consistently high rankings, a varied client base that the firm advises on some of the largest, biggest commercial transactions in the state. I value that ByrneWallace prides itself as having a culture of decency with respect and integrity at its core. This is the kind of environment that allows trainees to flourish and engage with meaningful work. I also value that clients receive a connected service from the firm, as you maintain an open desk policy, prioritising collaboration and knowledge sharing. This is vital to me as trainee to get every opportunity to learn from as many people as possible. As the only large Irish firm with Lexcel accreditation I know I can trust that as a business ByrneWallace is run to the highest standard, which allows lawyers to focus on providing the best service they can to clients.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding my application. Please note I as I am located in Australia I would be very grateful for the opportunity to interview remotely. I am happy to accommodate the time difference.

Kind regards,

Catherine Finnegan

## Contact details

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\*Email preferred as I am currently based in Australia.