89 Seafield Road East

Clontarf

Dublin 3

D03KW18

14/10/2024

Trainee Programme

Byrne Wallace LLP

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a legal professional, with almost 2 years’ experience as a legal assistant and legal intern in the areas of personal injury, commercial litigation and enforcement. I have two FE-1’s successfully completed, and I am awaiting results from two more. I graduated from DCU in 2023 with a BCL Law and Society. I achieved a high 2.1, ranking 14th in my year group.

I am passionate about the law. I am currently a legal intern at Philip Lee LLP in the Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution team, and I previously worked in Ennis and Associates Solicitors in insurance litigation. Gaining hands on experience in the legal sector has consolidated my decision to pursue law, and my drive and ambition to excel in a legal career. Right now, I am looking to develop and expand my knowledge of the law and take the next step in my career, and think I make an impact in Byrne Wallace as a trainee solicitor.

Byrne Wallace is one of Ireland’s largest full-service law firms with practices in a wide variety of areas which would be extremely beneficial to me as a trainee solicitor, as I am eager to gain a broad, thorough experience. Among other areas, I am very eager to gain experience in Healthcare Law. I am aware Byrne Wallace has a large, highly rated healthcare team. Healthcare Law deals with subjects I have studied in my degree, like genetics law and health care law itself. I found these modules particularly compelling due to the moral and ethical debate they raise. I have also completed work experience in CORU, a regulatory body for health and social care professionals. My experience has given me a comprehensive understanding of insurance law and litigation. The chance to advance my knowledge and skills in this area, and contribute to your team, who advise such a broad spectrum of industry leaders, would be invaluable to me. My natural interest in Healthcare Law, coupled with my experience in Insurance and Commercial Law will enable me to actively contribute to your team. The chance to learn from Byrne Wallace’s specialist lawyers, with such strong sectorial and industry knowledge, would provide me with a significant insight into a different practice area which I have not had the chance to fully explore yet.

My degree has provided me with a well-rounded, in depth understanding of the Irish legal system and allowed me to develop relevant research and oral advocacy skills expected in a legal role. I have achieved consistent top grades, demonstrating my goal orientated mentality and determination. I am a keen learner and my studies have also enhanced my self-discipline, organisation and self-management skills. I have strong written skills and am a great communicator, as demonstrated by the First Class Honours I received in the Moot Court module whilst in college. My INTRA placement in the Enforcement Division of the Central Bank of Ireland was one of the highlights of my time in college. It allowed me to gain a thorough understanding of the financial sector. Here I worked in the Unauthorised Providers Unit and on the Protected Disclosures Desk. Working on two teams required me to effectively balance my time and workload. Assisting the UPU in their casework allowed me to develop my analytical, attention to detail and problem-solving skills. During my time at there I got exposure into and the opportunity to assist their investigation and enforcement actions.

From my previous experience working in customer service, both at an independent retailer and a global retail company, I have honed my strong communication and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to foster strong client relationships. During college, I worked part time in Doyle’s pharmacy and worked frontline for the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, often completing long hours, in a high-pressure environment. Here I developed my capacity to work under pressure and with resilience whilst maintaining a high standard of service.

On a personal level, I am a self-starter and bring enthusiasm, energy, and determination to the task in hand. I get strong satisfaction from the achievement of challenging goals. I have attended weekly ballet classes with the Metropolitan School of Dance for 15 years of years and achieved Grade 8 with distinction at the Royal Academy of Dance. Ballet has allowed me to develop my confidence and self-discipline, whilst also providing a creative outlet during my time at college and work. I have a strong work ethic and I believe I would be an asset to any team I would be assigned to.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ciara Claffey