

## **Cover Letter - Cliona O'Brien.**

To be awarded the chance to apply the theoretical knowledge I have learned in university, to professional work in Byrne Wallace, would be a phenomenal opportunity.

Currently, I am a final year law student, graduating with a BCL degree in May 2020. Over the past three years my legal comprehension has progressed to an exceptionally high standard and I am now confident and capable to engage with complex legal concepts at a significantly advanced level.

Byrne Wallace prides itself in "Striving for Excellence". This value is something which is personally reflective of my passion for continuous striving of expanding my legal education. Volunteering with FLAC in University College Cork, has provided me with the opportunity to research specific areas of law on behalf of the assisting barristers. when required, in order to reach the best possible outcome for the client. This process of engaging with novel legislation, which has not been covered in university modules, ignites a true sense of legal excitement within me, and is something which I think, fits the ethos of Byrne Wallace perfectly.

In summer 2020, I worked in Nasc Cork; an organisation which advocates for the legal protection of refugees and migrant people in Ireland. I conducted a lengthy in depth legal compliance review of the 2015 McMahon Report. I created an economical analysis format which was used to investigate the congruence of government reuptake since publication in 2015. I also transposed Freedom of Information requests and provided reform frameworks.

I have edited multiple articles for the Cork Online Law Review. This has taken my legal research and writing skills to an exceptionally high standard. I yearn to expand this practice and knowledge much further than the boundaries of the library books and to do so in Byrne Wallace would be an invaluable experience.

I was the legal representative for UCC Environmental Society. I held multiple informative events on environmental enforcement in Ireland and the European Union. As both European law and Environmental law are areas of practice in Byrne Wallace, I believe this knowledge will be of benefit should I be placed in these sectors. In addition, I harnessed student awareness of the legal perspectives of climate change. Disseminating legal information, in a clear and concise manner to my fellow peers, sparked a love for making abstract legal topics understandable by all.

Undoubtedly, working in a professional capacity in Byrne Wallace requires initiative and diligence. In 2019, I was the Director of the UCC Women In Law Forum; a role that encompassed both of these skills. I organised and lead a National Conference for legal practitioners and university students, examining the tenacious issues surrounding Gender Equality and the Law. It was a job which required strong capability and diligence, as the event is the first of its kind in the country. I had the responsibility to liaise with members of the judiciary, law firms, lecturers and being a leader to my own peer committee. This high level of professionalism is something which I will bring with me to this internship.

Magnifying my legal comprehension as extensively as possible, is something which I constantly strive for, and to further this with Byrne Wallace would be an absolute honour.

Mise le meas,

Cliona O'Brien.