Cover Letter

I would greatly appreciate the chance to qualify as a solicitor with ByrneWallace LLP and I believe I have the skills, attributes and experience necessary to succeed there.

The breadth of multi-disciplinary expertise ByrneWallace would provide to a trainee solicitor seeking to find their niche in law is a very attractive factor. This range of knowledge has been recognised by the legal market, with 10 departments ranked in the top four or higher by Chambers and winning Banking, Finance/Restructuring & Insolvency Law Firm of the year in 2018. ByrneWallace’s Technology team is also indicative of the firm’s drive to be a market leader in emerging trends, proof of the future focused approach within the firm.

As mentioned, ByrneWallace is recognised for its Restructuring/Insolvency department, again highly ranked by Chambers. I performed quite strongly in an insolvency law module in my time at university and the opportunity to gain experience in this area would be rather exciting for me. I was particularly interested in insolvency and the process by which a company is wound up and it was my work on this topic that won the PWC Commercial Law award in 2021. The work in question was my answer to a problem question set by Dr. Noel McGrath on the distribution of assets in a winding up, the validity of floating charges and the potential existence of a retention of title clause. I was able to identify the issues that arose in each case, setting out the priority of the charges and creditors for recovery. This is an area I would definitely be interested in learning more about and gaining more experience in.

My friends and colleagues have told me that the firm is a great place to train, with challenging and engaging work to do, as well as an open and inclusive culture. Additionally, the opportunity to do Pro Bono work through a role with ByrneWallace appeals to me. I understand ByrneWallace has a strong corporate responsibility and sustainability presence. Through my work with Deloitte, I have gained some experience working with refugees and asylum seekers through the Know Your Rights legal education programme, and I have done some fundraising for charity in my university years raising money for the charity Jigsaw most notably. I would love the chance to pursue this further - working in immigration in Deloitte has made me extremely sympathetic to the challenges people face when migrating and I would love the chance to work with those most challenged, perhaps in conjunction with the Irish Refugee Council. A traineeship with ByrneWallace would give me a chance to explore this further. I believe the empathy and experience gained in this area will allow me to fully embrace the firm’s commitment to pro bono work and develop further as a solicitor.

In 2023, at the Deloitte end of year awards ceremony, I won an award for outstanding work completed and for being a helpful/approachable team member in the past calendar year. I was extremely proud to win the award, as the votes came from both my peers and superiors alike - it showed me they are happy when working alongside me, that I am able to make the lives of my colleagues easier with the work I produce and that the hours invested in my work had been appreciated and recognised. It has motivated me to maintain high levels of performance in my working life, to keep developing my skills and to continue providing trainings and advice to newer colleagues who could potentially benefit from my experience. This achievement would make me a suitable candidate for a traineeship with ByrneWallace, as it is proof of my ability to deliver high quality work in a corporate/commercial setting. It supplements the positive feedback I have received from my managers and senior team members throughout my working life, praising my productivity and holding me to be an asset to have on the team.

In my application, I have further outlined the skills and abilities which I believe make me a perfect candidate for a role as a trainee solicitor within this firm. I would ideally like to begin a training contract in 2026 but am flexible on this and 2025/2027 would be possible also.

Thank you for your consideration.