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19th October 2018

ByrneWallace

88 Harcourt St

Saint Kevin's

Dublin 2

To whom it may concern,

I wish to apply for the position of trainee at ByrneWallace and enclose my CV. I am a final year Business and Law student at University College Dublin and intend on pursuing a career in commercial law after finishing my degree. I would like to use this letter as an opportunity to outline my motivations for pursuing a career in commercial law, the skill set I can offer your firm as well as the reasons for ByrneWallace being my firm of choice.

A career in a commercial law firm is dynamic and challenging. The law is continuously changing to reflect society and a career involved in constant learning, new challenges and problem solving appeals to me. Working with a variety of clients who shape the economic landscape of Ireland, each with their own unique business model, and becoming immersed in what they do is an exciting prospect. Advising these types of clients of their obligations and rights under the law, and helping them navigate the legal boundaries to their business objectives is a big responsibility but will make for a rewarding career.

I believe I have a skill set that will give me a good foundation as I pursue a career in commercial law and one that will allow me to hit the ground running at Byrne Wallace. My interpersonal skills and ability to work well as part of a team were recognised by Compass Group management leading to my promotion to team leader. Working in hospitality has developed my ability to effectively communicate with customers as well as my attention to detail, skills relied on in a commercial law firm. I have developed my verbal and written communication skills in university through legal essay writing as well as working on group projects and presentations where these qualities are necessary to achieve high grades. Similarly, debating in UCD has taught me how to engage an audience by making arguments fluid and effective. It has also improved my presentation skills, problem solving and ability to strategise.

Exposure to the culture of a law firm and commercial transactions involving industry leaders during my internship at Herbert Smith Freehills has developed my commercial awareness. Here, I was introduced to the deadline driven nature of commercial law work, where time is of the essence and clients expect an efficient service. I found myself well suited to this style of work and getting the chance to work on a project with a tight deadline, while having to deliver on my pro bono commitments, developed my planning and organisational skills and shows my ability to multi-task. I am adaptable and flexible, as displayed by my enthusiasm in moving to Belfast for the duration of my internship, working in a different jurisdiction.

ByrneWallace is a progressive and forward thinking law firm. This is displayed by the manner in which the firm has risen to the challenge of Brexit. The firm’s dedicated multi-disciplinary team advises clients on not just its legal and regulatory implications, but also the potential opportunities that it can bring for their business. The firm also has a reputation as one of Ireland’s top technology law firms with experts in the fields of data security and cybercrime. This shows the firm’s ability to create innovative solutions to the modern challenges its clients face.

ByrneWallace is a firm that really invests its resources, energy and time into the personal and professional development of its trainees. Many of the partners at ByrneWallace were trainees at the firm, a product of the leadership qualities the firm brings out of its people. ByrneWallace puts a huge emphasis on the learning and development of its trainees, an extension of the firm’s culture. I am a motivated learner with intellectual curiosity when it comes to business and law, making the ByrneWallace trainee programme the perfect fit for me. Seminars and workshops form an integral part of the programme and equip trainees with not just legal skills such as drafting, negotiation and client care, but business and finances courses also. This will leave me with the well rounded skills palette and business acumen required to become a first class solicitor at a leading commercial law firm like Byrne Wallace.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this application and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kind Regards,

Conor Kilkenny