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Dublin 20

20 October 2016

Dear Ms. Onslow,

I would like to apply for a training contract at ByrneWallace. I am committed to a career as a commercial solicitor and your firm's distinguished position in this field ensures that working in your team would be an unparalleled opportunity.

ByrneWallace has consistently demonstrated the key role a successful commercial firm must play in a changing and competitive marketplace. In particular, your recent Law Firm of the Year award highlights your role in the marketplace as not just a legal advisor, but also a trusted strategic partner for clients. ByrneWallace's expert and proactive positioning at the front of the market is hugely appealing to me and I believe I would thrive in this type of team environment. The opportunity to train in a market-leading, yet collegiate atmosphere really appeals to me. ByrneWallace's training programme particularly stands out to me due to the Learning and Development Programme. I believe in the importance of continually building on existing skills and knowledge and am therefore attracted to such a forward-looking approach.

Becoming a commercial solicitor is a primary ambition of mine. The complexity of commercial practice and the intersection of many different areas of law and commerce within individual projects is one of the most appealing features of commercial practice to me. I am conscious that the evolving role of a commercial solicitor is not confined to providing targeted legal advice; a commercial solicitor advising on large-scale projects must also be a strategic advisor, a risk assessor and have a key understanding of the client's business. I would relish the opportunity to work on the type of large-scale multi-disciplinary projects ByrneWallace advises on. I enjoy being challenged and solving problems and I believe the calibre of the projects ByrneWallace advises on would provide plenty of opportunities for such work.

My academic and professional background ensures that I would be a valuable addition to your team. I completed my LLB at Trinity College Dublin and my LLM at the London School of Economics. I not only have an excellent educational background but also valuable work experience which has enabled me to develop a broad skill set which would be of use to your firm.

Following my LLM and a period at the Free Legal Advice Centres I worked as a Judicial Assistant in the High Court, primarily for the now retired Justice Maureen

Clark. This was a high-pressure role with no room for error. In this position I prepared initial drafts of all judgments, attended hearings both in Dublin and on circuit and researched complex legal issues that arose in the course of hearings.

I subsequently worked as a researcher in an environmental organisation in South Africa, which mainly involved assessing levels of corporate compliance and adherence to disclosure requirements by large companies. I relished the focus on detail such tasks required. My responsibilities were extremely varied and involved everything from drafting reports and related legal submissions on air quality legislation around the world, to engaging with and presenting to investors and fund managers on the potential environmental liabilities of various companies. My role also involved significant engagement with large companies as part of projects aimed at developing opportunities for collaboration. I was very much thrown in the deep end in this position, and my skills improved greatly by virtue of having to surmount the challenge of navigating a foreign legal system. Cross-border issues have featured heavily in my experience and I have become adept at assessing comparative legislation in foreign jurisdictions. A further project I was involved in entailed utilising NYSE disclosure requirements and associated U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rules and investigation practices to achieve the goals of my South African team. ByrneWallace's involvement in the international legal sphere, for example through your membership in ALFA International, ensures that this experience is highly relevant to your firm.

I have also completed a number of internships in legal centres in Cape Town, Dublin and London, where I have received incredible legal training in varied areas of law. These internships not only honed my research and drafting skills but also my advocacy skills and I have represented clients at tribunals in both London and Cape Town. Whilst attending the London School of Economics I also completed mini-pupillages with a variety of leading legal chambers in London including Landmark Chambers and QEB Hollis Whiteman Chambers.

I have experience from a judicial point of view and also from a legal advisors perspective and I believe this puts me in a unique position to give legal advice that is both targeted and strategic, while maintaining the element of independence that is essential as a legal advisor. I am confident that my varied professional and educational experience to date would make me a key asset for the ByrneWallace team.

Kind regards,  
Dearbhaile O'Brien