

**Edinburgh,  
Scotland**

**18<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Trainee Programme Manager  
ByrneWallace  
88 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to apply for the position of Trainee Solicitor with your firm.

I am a law graduate with a strong academic record, having obtained a First-Class Honours Bachelor of Laws degree from Maynooth University in 2017.

This year, I have opted to pursue further study in an area of law for which I have a particular passion, undertaking a Master of Laws degree in European Law from the University of Edinburgh.

Throughout my undergraduate studies, I worked part-time in a busy services industry position, while also performing leading voluntary roles in a rich variety of organisations. Upon graduation from Maynooth University, I was awarded a university Extra-Curricular Award along with my degree, in recognition of the active roles I played in several different college societies.

Many of my experiences have led me to work with peers from all around Europe and further afield, through projects that I led such as the ELSA Maynooth International Negotiation Competition and the ELSA Ireland Law School 2017, a week-long academic, social and cultural programme for 50 law students from all around Europe, which took place in Dublin in August 2017. ELSA, the European Law Students' Association, is a network of 50,000 law students from over 40 countries. I have been involved with ELSA at all levels of the network – local, national and international – and my involvement has given me the opportunity to travel extensively around Europe and build friendships and working relationships with people from diverse cultures all around the continent. In the process, I have also been able to engage many of my other interests, such as politics and history, as well as gain valuable insights into different cultures.

I believe that my unique set of experiences has allowed me to develop a strong and varied set of skills – such as leadership, teamwork and communication – and demonstrated my work ethic, commitment, initiative and multi-tasking and organisational abilities. Some of the more large-scale projects in which I have been involved – as well as my working experience – have also given me a greater sense of the way in which businesses of different sizes operate in Ireland.

Whilst I am proud of my academic record, I regard myself as a pragmatist and I believe that it is my practical outlook, together with my organisational, communication and teamwork skills, that bring most value to my profile as a prospective lawyer.

I have chosen a career in law because I find the way in which the legal environment evolves – through the combining forces of politics, economics and business – exciting, and I believe that my combination of interests and qualities render me well suited to the task of understanding the law and appreciating its practical implications.

I have chosen to pursue a career in commercial law in particular because I would like to work in an environment in which I am working at the top of my field. I enjoy being challenged in my work, as well as the feeling of constantly evolving as a professional, building my knowledge and refining my skills into something valuable. I think that the innovative environment of a growing commercial law firm like ByrneWallace is the best place for me to do this throughout my career, being able to work on many of the newest and most challenging legal and commercial issues at a given time.

I also value the scale and collegiality of firms like ByrneWallace, because I like the way in which different specialised teams can work together to allow for a ‘full service’ for clients’ legal needs. Although I have enjoyed gaining exposure to a diverse range of areas of law in the context of a general practice in my career to date, I would like to be able to specialise in a specific area as I progress in my career. I think that being able to achieve a top-class grounding in an area of law requires being able to practice in a law firm of sufficient size and commercial calibre. ByrneWallace appeals to me for this reason.

I enclose along with this letter my CV, which outlines my experiences to date in more detail and illustrates my record of commitment, stamina, time and relationship management skills, teamwork and organisational ability, as well as my work ethic.

I thank you for your time in considering my application and I would be very grateful for the opportunity to further demonstrate my suitability and potential as a ByrneWallace trainee in person.

Yours faithfully,

  
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**Dónal Merrick**

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