

A Chara,

I wish to apply for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme. I am beginning my journey as a solicitor following a period of almost 6 years working in the banking sector. I am currently employed in the National Asset Management Agency as a Deputy Senior Manager having joined in 2016 in a graduate role initially and progressing through my commitment to delivering results. I have chosen to cease my employment in April 2021 in order to focus solely on pursuing a legal career by seeking internships and upon completion of all FE-1s, a traineeship.

My current role is to manage a portfolio of distressed debt cases with a total portfolio value in excess of €1bn. My experience to date is commercial in nature which has enabled me to develop first-rate commercial acumen. My career heretofore has provided me with unrivalled insight into the necessary relationship between the business and legal professions through exposure to significant commercial transactions which have been varied and include corporate insolvency, litigation and real estate.

I am an ambitious person who is committed to growing and developing both personally and professionally. Following completion of my undergraduate studies in Economics, Politics & International Relations in UCD, I continued my studies while working in NAMA and subsequently obtained both a Professional Diploma in Financial Advice and an MSc in Financial Services. Completing further studies while working full time is demanding but highlights the dedication to personal and professional development I possess as well as the ability to manage time effectively and balance work, study and life.

Byrne Wallace traineeships are focussed on a practical, hand-on experience and personal development. By having the opportunity to be assigned to a partner in the training programme it ensures direct access to the high-calibre quality of work expected. This exposure and involvement appeals to me as someone who likes to be immersed in the centre of the transaction or project being worked on. I have an innate desire for understanding and knowledge. Given I started in a graduate role in NAMA I found involvement to be the most effective learning method throughout. I actively requested to sit in on calls and meetings to listen and learn from other people and has resulted in me progressing through the ranks in an expedited manner in my current place of employment. In addition, I believe the focus on personal development gives an opportunity to further advance my existing skills base learned throughout my career to date.

I wish to thank you for your time in reading my application and cover letter.

Yours sincerely,  
Emer Cassidy