Condonstown

Watergrasshill

Co. Cork

12 October 2016

Beth Onslow

ByrneWallace

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

Dear Ms Onslow,

I am applying for a position on the ByrneWallace Training Programme because I would relish the opportunity to work in a fast-paced, dynamic legal environment and to be a part of one of Ireland’s leading commercial law firms.

I am an ideal candidate for a position with ByrneWallace because I am ambitious, enthusiastic, personable and exceptionally hard-working. I possess an excellent academic record having achieved First Class Honours in both my Masters and Undergraduate Law degrees and completing a PhD in 2013. I was awarded a prestigious scholarship from the Irish Research Council to support my PhD studies based on my academic achievements and the strength of my research proposal, and was also selected as a visiting researcher to Harvard Law School in 2011 based on these grounds. Completing a PhD was a very rewarding experience which has furnished me with considerable skills which are transferable to working as a trainee solicitor. I have significant experience with maintaining deadlines, working long hours and intense work requiring the ability to self-motivate and exercise initiative. Following such a course also ensures that I have proven abilities in legal writing and presentation of my ideas.

I have substantial experience of working effectively as part of a team in an office environment, organising and attending consultative meetings and taking on administrative and other responsibilities. I gained this experience in particular through my time with the Law Reform Commission (LRC) where I was the sole legal researcher on the Commission’s recently published Report on “Harmful Communications and Digital Safety”. I also received training on updating the Revised Acts and Legislation Directory during my time with the LRC, which has allowed me to develop extensive skills in legislative interpretation. I have a diverse range of other work experiences including lecturing both Undergraduate and Postgraduate law students and working as a part of research teams with the Department of Finance and the EU Network of Experts on Free Movement of Workers. I have also undertaken work experience at a solicitors’ office.

I believe that I would be a good fit for ByrneWallace because I am intellectually curious and possess a diverse range of legal interests, but am eager to develop an area of specialisation. For example, I have developed a strong interest in data protection, privacy and technology law through my work at the LRC and would like to develop this interest further. I enjoy this area because it is extremely relevant and topical and raises interesting questions such as where the appropriate balance between the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression lies. Thus, the fact that ByrneWallace has a particularly vibrant team dedicated to the technology sector is of great interest to me.

In my free time, I particularly enjoy going to the cinema as I have a passionate interest in film. I am a member of the Irish Film Institute, an organisation dedicated to exhibiting, preserving and celebrating Irish, independent and foreign film. I completed a short course on contemporary cinema in 2010 and I also enjoy reading books on film criticism. My other pastimes include travel, reading and keeping fit.

As my previous work and academic experiences suggest, I am very driven and would dedicate myself completely to excelling within the training programme at ByrneWallace. However, the nurturing and inclusive nature of the work environment at ByrneWallace with its emphasis on teamwork and ensuring trainees reach their potential, also convinces me that qualifying as a solicitor of excellence would be uniquely possible under the guidance of the team at ByrneWallace. Thank you for considering my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona O’Regan