

110 Pembroke Cottages  
Donnybrook  
Dublin 4

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ByrneWallace  
88 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2

To whom it may concern

I am writing to apply for the ByrneWallace traineeship. My interest to pursue a career in law developed over time. I am particularly interested in EU law, following-on from my background in studying European languages and cultural history, and my time spent living in Germany, Spain, France and Belgium. I left Ireland after completing my bachelor's degree in English and German literature with the aim of learning more languages and deepening my cultural understanding of Europe. For years I focused on adapting to and integrating into life in different foreign countries. My actual interest in law as a career was sparked in my role as the associate director of a research centre (for the study of North African and European relations). I found myself working closely with legal and political issues, and it was then that I realised that I wanted to step away from a purely academic career in cultural studies and to focus on the practice of law. I was not done exploring the world, however, and spent a bit more time travelling before applying to work at law firms.

During my first few weeks of working at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Brussels, as a legal assistant to the Partner in Charge (Peter Alexiadis), I began exploring all of my options to qualifying as a lawyer. Many lawyers at Gibson Dunn gave me the opportunity to conduct research for them and I learnt an incredible amount about the practice of European law from assisting the Partner in Charge with his legal publications and his module on an LLM course at King's College London. I wanted to continue living abroad, so I chose to study law long distance, completing a Diploma in Legal Studies and Practice at Griffith College in Dublin. Travelling to attend workshops and exams in Dublin whilst working in Brussels was a challenging but worthwhile experience, and I feel it demonstrates the level of commitment that I have to my legal career.

When I received an offer to work at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Brussels as a legal assistant to a team of competition lawyers, I jumped at the opportunity. They included me in their meetings and helped me to develop my legal skills by relying on me for various research projects. It was through the Managing Partner of the Brussels office, Izzet Sinan, that I was first brought in contact with ByrneWallace. Mr Sinan had a very high regard for Joanne Finn's work and kindly put me in touch with her. I was then delighted to be offered an intern position for the ByrneWallace EU, Competition and Regulated Markets team. I feel I have already greatly benefited from being part of the team at ByrneWallace and am receiving valuable mentorship, which I very much appreciate. I have been made to feel valued and trusted, even getting an opportunity to use my French language skills on two client calls.

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to work as a trainee and explore work in different departments and I thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Gill Gillespie