

Dear Ms. Onslow,

My name is Gordon Walsh and I am a graduate of UCD's Sutherland School of Law. I hold a Second Class Honours Grade One Bachelor of Civil Law degree and a Post-Graduate Diploma from Universiteit Antwerpen. I have passed all 8 FE1 exams and I wish to be considered for a position in the Traineeship Programme of Byrne Wallace.

I first became interested in a legal career when my school hosted a Public Access to Law Day. The day involved a discussion between local solicitors and our class. The event piqued my interest in the legal profession and I began making enquiries about legal work experience. I spent some time working in a solicitor's firm and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I also received positive feedback from the firm regarding my attentive and dedicated approach. I soon began to explore the idea of a legal career in earnest.

As a student, I volunteered in some local businesses to build experience and develop my soft skills. I put particular effort into developing skills related to teamwork, presentation, client service and problem-solving. That hard work paid off when I secured my first paid job in The Shelbourne Hotel, which is one of the most prestigious hotels in Ireland.

I am always looking for opportunities to self-improve. While I could have taken the bare 8 subjects during my Erasmus year, I chose to take 4 extra subjects and earn my Post-Graduate Diploma. My studies included international healthcare law and global litigation law, which are highly relevant to Byrne Wallace's work. I participated in Model United Nations and UCD's Negotiation Competition to experience the kind of multi-lateral dialogue that often occurs outside court. Participants in these events need to be flexible, think of ideas on their feet and market those ideas, which are useful skills to have in a legal career.

I found the MUN experience to be of such value that I spear-headed an initiative to establish MUN in UCD and further extend the opportunities that MUN had extended to me. This allowed me to work in a real-life business capacity, as I promoted the project with potential participants, sought approval from the university and personally solicited sponsorship. This broader theme of civic engagement is omnipresent in my background. It is also present in the work of Byrne Wallace, particularly with regard to your corporate social responsibility work with St. John of God Hospital. Working with diverse groups such as KARE and SAWTY, as well as my GAISCE activities, has strengthened many of my business skills, including communication, adaptation and innovation.

I am a progressive thinker and I fully avail of the benefits that an opportunity can give me. My upcoming journal article on the consumer defence exemplifies that, as my Judicial Assistant role comes with a wealth of research resources. The position also provides direct access to legal professionals, including Byrne Wallace. When working on a case involving Byrne Wallace, your team are friendly, focused and extremely supportive in helping me to do my job. I have spoken with your interns, read up on the firm on my own time and attended the trainee open evening. The firm specialises in many legal areas that interest me, including technology and the public sector. The training programme has an excellent reputation, as the firm invests heavily in its people. Your recent data protection conference is proof that your culture and values are on the cutting edge and focused on the future.

Byrne Wallace is the perfect fit for a future trainee like myself. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am available for interview at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Gordon Walsh