10/10/2017

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Hannah Cronin and I am writing to you to convey my interest in applying for the Trainee Solicitor Programme at Byrne Wallace and to present myself as a suitable, worthy candidate for same.

I completed an undergraduate degree in English and History at University College Cork. It was always my intention to pursue a career in law, and so I undertook a two year Post Graduate Diploma in law at University College Cork.

My interest in applying to Byrne Wallace for the opportunity to pursue my professional training originates from the following. Firstly, as evident from the firm’s website, Byrne Wallace provides a multitude of broad legal services to its comprehensive client base including Banking & Finance, Corporate Law, Employment Law and Healthcare and Life Sciences to name a few. This attracts me as a potential employee because throughout my training I will be engaged in different areas of the law on a weekly basis, thereby developing my knowledge /skill-set exponentially. Secondly, Byrne Wallace’s legal team share an excellent reputation, which leads me to believe that the training, guidance and experience that I would receive would be indelible to my development as an expert solicitor. Byrne Wallace’s graduate program stands out to me amongst all the programs being offered by the different Irish Law firms. I want the best training possible so I will have a great foundation on which to build my career in the future, and in my opinion training with Byrne Wallace will provide me with this. Byrne Wallace is undeniably a major leading name amongst the Irish Law firms but still maintains a reputation of integrity and excellence along with a high profile. Even just looking at the recognition and awards the firm has achieved to date gave me an idea of how successful a firm it really is, such as the Chambers Europe Ireland Client Service Award 2017 and the Irish Law Awards Excellence in Client Service Award 2017. I would be very excited to begin my career in Law learning from the individuals within Byrne Wallace who drive the firm to success and achieve such standards of excellence in their daily work. Thirdly, the fact that Byrne Wallace is so well known in the Health and Life Sciences sector interests me. In my most recent internship at Cantillons Solicitors in Cork, I was exposed to various high profile cases involving medical negligence and this inspired an interest in me for this area of the law. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to train with a firm with such expertise in this area while also benefitting from the knowledge I would gain in all other departments.

There are several reasons why I would be a valuable addition to the Byrne Wallace team as a trainee. Before entering the LLB programme at University College Cork, I studied and achieved an upper second class honours in English and History. Throughout my undergraduate study, the aspects of the subjects that I enjoyed the most were articulating arguments, exhibiting critical thinking, involving myself in research and also using primary sources to proffer analyses of events in the past. For my final year History dissertation, I undertook a study of Catholic ethics and its impact on Irish medical practice and deepened my knowledge of legislation and its impact on all aspects of Irish society. I was very happy to achieve a First Class Honours in this dissertation and took this as confirmation that I would thrive in the study of law. My ability to synthesise large amounts of material from disparate sources and to think clearly and analytically under pressure became clear to me in my Leaving Certificate exams in which I gained 530 points and I have demonstrated this ability consistently ever since. In fact, I am happy to say that the results in my postgraduate study of Law have been of a very high standard to date. In fact I was pleased to discover that I came fourth in my postgraduate class based on my summer results of 2016.

My four years as a waitress and in particular my time working in New York City have taught me how to work and perform well under pressure, successfully co-operate and enjoy working with colleagues as part of a team and be in constant contact with members of the public. I am a good communicator and I enjoyed having to be in constant ongoing communication with members on the public during my various different work experiences. Therefore I wish to pursue a career that involves being in contact, and co-operating with, members of the public on a regular basis. In addition to this, my summers spent working and living in New York has given me valuable life skills and I can now confidently face any unforeseen circumstances and deal with them whilst always maintaining perspective and logical thinking. I have also served as Vice Auditor of a University fashion society which demonstrates the confident leadership and communication skills that are also essential for a successful legal career.

Finally, my internship with Ernest J. Cantillon Solicitors, a leading Law firm in Cork, gave me an insight into the day-to-day duties of a trainee. I really enjoyed this experience and felt I thrived in the particular work environment of the firm.

Based on my understanding of the work engaged in by Byrne Wallace, I believe that I am most suited to a traineeship there, as I am an ambitious, adaptable, hardworking and conscientious person, who flourishes under the challenge of learning new skills in fast paced environments. As my CV demonstrates, my academic, personal and professional experiences have enabled me to develop strong communication and interpersonal skills, as well as practical research, analysis and writing skills, all of which are entrenched in the work of a solicitor. Therefore, I believe that with minimal training and guidance, I would become a valuable asset in contributing to the work and continuing success of Byrne Wallace.

 I have enclosed my CV to authenticate my application and would greatly welcome the opportunity to discuss my suitability further at the interview stage.Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannah Cronin