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Byrne Wallace LLP
88 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2

15th October 2024

Re: Trainee Solicitor Programme 2025

Dear Sir / Madam

Further to your recent advertisement, I write for the purposes of applying for the role of trainee solicitor.

By way of background, prior to coming to Ireland and studying the Irish common law legal system, I studied the civil law system as part of my 5-year Spanish law degree at the University of Basque Country, San Sebastian. I later came to Ireland, initially for the purposes of improving my English, but thereafter deciding to make it my permanent home. Seeking to further my legal education, I enrolled onto the Kings Inns' Diploma in Legal Studies, graduating two years later in 2019. Wishing then to practise law, I turned my attention towards the FE1 examinations, passing the eighth and final examination in October 2023.

In terms of my relevant work experience to date, following my graduation in Spain I worked with the María Cruz López Gascón law firm in Basque Country in a role roughly equivalent to that of a legal secretary. I handled not only the typical day to day administration related work of a legal office (case and file management, reception etc) but also the dealt directly with clients, scheduled consultations and court dates, took notes during family and immigration law consultations, followed up with clients re outstanding documents and fees etc, prepared briefs for court and attended court. I left this role to focus full-time on preparing for the entrance examinations to Spain's judicial training programme.

After almost a year into my preparation for these entrance examinations, the Spanish government, due to the then ongoing financial crisis, brought in a moratorium on the training and hiring of new judges. Having reached a fork in the road and wishing to improve my English, I decided to come to Ireland.

Shortly after arriving in Ireland, I took up a role with MD7, an American multi-national, working out of their Dublin office. During my three years there I rose from team member to team leader.

My team's function was to make contact with landlords of Spanish properties for the purposes of researching title, and thereafter negotiating contracts with them for the lease of parts of their properties to telecoms providers who wished to install telecoms masts / antennae thereon. This role required an understanding of Spanish property law together also with an understanding of the fundamentals of both Irish and Spanish contract law.

During this period I dedicated significant time and effort towards improving my level of English. Once I felt that I had obtained the necessary level of fluency, and having always had an interest in law, I decided to train in the common law system (having previously been educated in the codified system). I enrolled onto the Kings Inns' Legal Studies diploma, where I performed very well, passing every exam and assignment first time.

After my graduation from Kings Inns, I took on an un-paid role with MS Solicitors in Dublin in order to gain experience in an Irish legal office. My role in effect was that of a legal executive. This firm dealt mainly in criminal, family and immigration law. I sat in on consultations, liaised with clients, prepared briefs and attended counsel in court (District and Circuit). I was the direct point of contact for many clients guiding them through whichever court process was applicable to them. I assisted clients with the completion of affidavits of means and welfare etc, gathered the supporting documentation and thereafter filed the necessary pleadings in the various Court Offices

I applied then in 2020 was offered an entry level, Clerical Officer, role with the Legal Aid Board. I was quickly promoted thereafter to the role of Legal Clerk in the Chancery Street Law Centre. My day-to-day work at present relates almost exclusively to child care proceedings, where my duties are carried out under the supervision of a solicitor. In reality the work of a Legal Clerk closely mirrors that of a solicitor, save for certain key functions, reserved by law for a Solicitor.

My duties as a Legal Clerk include, *inter alia*, initial meetings with clients, liaising with a host of both State and private external stakeholders, drafting and filing pleadings, preparing booklets of pleadings and authorities, selecting, briefing and thereafter, on a daily basis, attending Counsel at consultations and appearances before the District, Circuit and High Courts . Prior to of taking my role in Chancery Street I was based in the Legal Aid Board's Smithfield Law Centre where I was performing similar duties to those performed in Chancery Street but with a focus instead on family law proceedings and on a quite a number of occasions representing the interests of complainants in sexual offence prosecutions (s.3 cross-examinations).

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application, should you wish to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Inés Renedo Ruiz