

JACK COUGHLAN

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Dear hiring manager of ByrneWallace LLP,

I am writing to apply for the position of trainee in ByrneWallace LLP as advertised on your website. I first learned of the firm from working in the Criminal Circuit Court throughout my tenure as a Judicial Assistant. The firm was acting in a mental health and capacity matter, an area of law I took subsequent interest in.

I hold a Joint Honours in History & Politics and a postgraduate degree in Law. In my postgraduate degree I undertook research on the lack of a right of recognition in collective bargaining in Irish Employment Law. Furthermore, my postgraduate thesis was a feminist analysis of the 2018 Domestic Violence Act and its compliance with the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention. At present, I have sat 5 FE1 examinations for entry to Blackhall.

At present, I work for a Court of Appeal Civil Judge. I assist the Judge in research and preparation of judgments mostly in the area of judicial review, employment and property law. These are areas of law I would be particularly interested in training in with ByrneWallace if given the chance. I also completed a year with a Circuit Criminal Judge. When I saw the firm acting in a mental health and capacity law matter, I took a particular interest in this area of law. On foot of this, I completed a research memo on the determination of fitness to be tried in Irish Criminal Law which is now available in the Judge's library.

Previous to this, I worked as a legal secretary in a busy firm in Cork City. The solicitors I worked for were specialised in personal injuries and employment law. Assisting a solicitor who worked in personal injuries litigation was a brilliant experience, as I got to experience probably one of the most fast paced areas of law. Working in such an environment has made me suited to busy and changing work environments, a skill I would bring to ByrneWallace.

I also have extensive experience working in public service roles. These roles have equipped me with great people management skills, such as communication skills, conflict resolution and negotiation. I consider these skills directly applicable to managing my future relations between future colleagues and clients. I am a team player, and I believe a medium sized firm like ByrneWallace would help me thrive as a solicitor.

I am looking to train with a firm that has a broad array of practice areas. I believe ByrneWallace offers this. Of particular interest are the areas of employment law, capacity law and judicial review.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Jack Coughlan.