

## James Durkan

Barley Hill, Tibbradden Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin, Ireland

+353 870540233 [jamesdurkan1997@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdurkan1997@gmail.com) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/durkan-james/>

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Emily Murray  
Byrne Wallace  
88 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 DK18

Dear Ms Emily Murray:

I am writing to you with the intent to secure an interview for a future opening as a trainee with your firm. After working in Chicago for one year with a top personal injury law firm, I returned home to sit my FE-1 exams. I secured a three-month paralegal position with your firm to commence in March 2020, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic this was postponed.

As an aspiring solicitor, I would be delighted to kick start my legal career with a top ten award winning law firm like ByrneWallace. A firm like ByrneWallace needs to recruit the best talent on the market to consistently exceed client expectations. From my early teenage years, all that has been instilled in me is a hard work ethic. I come from a family that has worked extremely hard to get to where they are today. My father and grandfather have ensured that work ethic would not be lost with me.

Since I can remember I have worked with my grandfather on our farm in the Dublin mountains and from the age of thirteen I have worked with my father in the family business. From the age of sixteen onwards, every summer Monday to Friday I have worked on large scale residential and commercial building sites. All the while earning much less than the minimum wage, understanding the true value of money. Although, other candidates may have better grades than myself I know that my work ethic along with my social skills are first-rate.

In my year abroad in Chicago, I gained invaluable experience working in one of America's busiest legal jurisdictions, Cook County. In conjunction with this job I managed to work three nights a week at the Galway Arms as well as being a starting member on the Chicago Lions RFC Men's Division 1 squad which reached the final four of the USA Rugby Club Nationals. I thrived in the fast-paced American lifestyle. The ability to balance two jobs working seven days a week while succeeding at the highest level of USA amateur rugby was extremely gratifying. I look to continue this fast-paced lifestyle a trainee at your firm.

The biggest motivating factor for embarking on my year abroad was from my trip to Nepal in the Summer of 2018. In my final year of school, I succeeded in being selected to represent my school abroad on a charity trip to Nepal in 2015. I was one of twelve students to be successful in a round of interviews conducted by various faculty members, with more than fifty applicants to be decided from. With Nepal being struck by two devastating earthquakes in May 2015, the trip was postponed. Having just undergone the trip in 2018, I was blown away by the young teenagers we met. Hearing their past experiences and their future

aspirations had really placed perspective on the opportunities that I take for granted every day. Since my time in Nepal, I have stayed in contact with the orphans I bonded with during my stay. I have promised to return when I finish my journey qualifying as a solicitor.

I am especially hopeful to learn from your construction and property departments. With my family's background and expertise in the property and construction industry that sector has always been a talking point in the household from an early age. I have always expressed a great interest in this area, and I would love the opportunity to learn the legal intricacies of this dynamic sector from some of your most experienced lawyers. Past appointments and expansion to both the property and construction departments as well as recent recognition for your advisory work in the Build-to-Rent Sector shows promise for the firm's future success in these areas. In the future, I hope to be a part of and contribute to this success.

I would like to thank you for reading this letter and I hope that you take my application into consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the above phone number or email to find out any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

James Durkan