

ByrneWallace LLP Trainee Solicitor Programme 2024

Julia Langeland,

[Julialangeland99@gmail.com](mailto:Julialangeland99@gmail.com)

[J.langeland1@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:J.langeland1@universityofgalway.ie)

Tel: 087-165-7775

To the management of the Trainee Solicitor Programme at ByrneWallace LLP,

I am an experienced, ambitious international student hoping to establish myself in Ireland. A traineeship with ByrneWallace LLP would allow me to prove myself and showcase my unique set of skills. My prior work experience in a legal environment, my international academic background, and my performance in my coursework here in Ireland make me an ideal candidate for a traineeship with your firm.

Your firm is, in my mind, the ideal proving grounds for all that I have learned so far. ByrneWallace's breadth of practice areas and international reach is highly attractive, especially in light of recent investment in Ireland and my own multi-national educational background. The age and reputation of the firm are of great importance to me, and the firm's track record speaks for itself. A traineeship with ByrneWallace LLP would be an incredible opportunity to gain hands-on experience within an Irish legal context. I know that, given the opportunity, I will prove to be a valuable asset to your firm.

I am a self-starter and actively seek out new challenges. I am comfortable being uncomfortable and am not afraid to venture outside of my comfort zone in order to achieve my goals. I am an American second-year law student at the University of Galway (formerly known as the National University of Ireland Galway) in a two-year graduate entry LLB. Despite having no previous exposure to Irish law, I received a 1st in my first year, proving the dedication I have to establishing a career in this field. Following graduation, I aim to become a solicitor and put down roots in Ireland. This, I feel, would be the culmination of many years of work and life experience prior to my enrollment at NUIG/UoG. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in Political Science with a minor in Law, Values, and Policy. During my undergraduate degree, I spent a semester abroad studying law at the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law at Swansea University, where I first considered establishing a legal career outside of the United States. I graduated *Cum Laude* in May of 2021, but opted to wait before applying to law school in the United States, choosing instead to take a three-month sabbatical living in Emilia-Romagna, Italy. There, I reconnected with former students from my exchange period at Swansea University and began to learn Italian. Over the two years following this first excursion, I have made regular trips to visit my acquaintances and have taught myself Italian, having spent nearly 9 months there over the past two years.

When I returned to the United States, I began working as a legal assistant at Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP. There, I developed skills most of my fellow law students have not yet had the opportunity to acquire. At Perdue Brandon, I proved to be a reliable employee with a strong work ethic and courtesy towards fellow staff, District Clerk employees, and taxpayers. I take particular pride in my negotiation of sensitive situations with taxpayers. This required civility and professionalism in what were, at times, emotionally fraught, high-stakes circumstances. While I enjoyed working in a fast-paced environment and enjoyed the intellectual rigour associated with working in a law office, I decided to leave the firm to pursue a legal education in Ireland with the ultimate aim of eventually qualifying as a solicitor. Becoming an attorney in the United States is a very significant financial burden, and I decided, upon balancing my options, that studying in Ireland would make the most sense for my financial future. I also decided to take on this challenge because I felt Ireland would be an ideal place to put down roots, owing to its common law system, EU

membership, and recent foreign investment. Though the prospect of establishing myself in a new country was initially quite daunting, I have faced it head on. I believe that if I work hard enough, I can avail of the opportunities this country has to provide and I can give back in equal measure.

In summary, I believe I can rise to any challenge, learn any skill, and take less-trodden roads so long as I devote myself to my efforts. I have learned new legal systems, new languages, and new skills. I have succeeded in these endeavours and have done so on my own initiative. Of the candidates for this position, I feel that I am among those who have proven their willingness to learn and their dedication to expanding their horizons in search of better opportunities. I know that, if given the chance, I can build something substantial.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Langeland