19 Templemore Avenue

Rathgar

Dublin 6

Byrne Wallace

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

Dear Sirs,

I recently graduated with an LL.B, Law with Economics, from the University of Limerick. Following my final examinations in May 2016 I undertook a Summer Internship with Eversheds Sutherland and subsequently worked in the firms Dispute Resolution & Litigation Department until August of this year gaining invaluable practical legal experience. I am now writing to apply for a traineeship position with Byrne Wallace.

When deciding upon which law firms I wished to apply to I looked to the culture and overall ethos of each organisation and Byrne Wallace stood out as the best fit for me. The collegiate atmosphere and the firms impressive record of excelling in client service are initially what drew me towards the firm. I have always believed that placing client service at the centre of your work will result in the most successful outcome and the fact that the firm is the only top 10 law firm in the country with the Lexcel accreditation is very impressive. Furthermore, it is clear that Byrne Wallace is facing the challenges of IT and commercialisation of legal services head on. I would love the opportunity to join such a progressive firm.

I believe that academic knowledge can only be broadened by experience. My passion for law flourished during my internship with Eversheds Sutherland Solicitors, as I gained insight into Irish law in practice. My experience, which was mainly litigation based, required me to work with attentiveness and diligence to provide adequate support to my team. Further, my time spent working in the Revenue Control Department of Electric Ireland has given me greater appreciation of the demands of working in a fast-paced office environment, as I worked alongside my team to meet weekly deadlines. This is a working environment that I thrive in.

I am a self-motivated individual, who enjoys undertaking new challenges and I have a proven track record of working well both independently, and as part of a team. With the UL Student Ambassador Programme and UL Law Society I have worked in groups both doing collaborative academic research and to organise talks and events.

The varied practice areas offered at Byrne Wallace is another element which has really drawn me to the firm, and I believe I can offer my own skills in this regard. In no other law firm does there seem to be the opportunity to learn across such a wide range. As a law and Economics graduate, the unique challenges posed to clients by Brexit is something I find very interesting and I would relish the opportunity to be involved in charting such difficult territory. Having spent the last year interning in an international law firm on a team which interacted with other European offices daily, I believe I am more aware of European issues and would be fascinated to see the law changing in practice at this point and how it would affect individual businesses.

In my personal life, I have tried to give back by volunteering in my spare time with different charities both during my time in school and at college. This is something I would really like to continue and the Corporate Social Responsibility policy at Byrne Wallace is particularly well developed and demonstrates the strong ethics of the firm. From previous work with ‘Citizens Information’ I am well aware of the importance of pro bono work in the legal profession and would certainly avail of the opportunities presented to me as a trainee to help others who are less fortunate. Having volunteered regularly throughout college through the UL Presidents Volunteer Initiative I have developed communication and problem-solving skills which I would wish to continue to develop in a career with Byrne Wallace. I found the firms’ stance of beginning Corporate Social Responsibility internally to reflect externally an impressive way of examining how best to contribute to charitable causes.

I understand that the core policy of work at Byrne Wallace is to work to the highest standard possible to achieve the best outcome for the client. I have a very strong work ethic and enjoy working to achieve a high standard. In all areas of my academic and professional career I have worked hard to obtain the best result I can. This work ethic and problem solving is something I hope to be able to transfer to help the clients of Byrne Wallace while learning from the highly talented partners and associates of the firm.

I believe that I have gained the skills needed to progress to the next stage of my career, hopefully contributing to the work of Byrne Wallace. Thank you for taking the time to read my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Kelly Aherne