

## Cover Letter

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kelly Mc Eveney and I am writing to apply for the ByrneWallace LLP Trainee Solicitor Programme 2024. At present, I am a paralegal in the Infrastructure, Construction and Energy Group of ByrneWallace, on secondment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additionally, I am awaiting the final result of my LLM in International Human Rights Law and Public Policy in the University College Cork (UCC) whilst also studying for the FE1s. My experience in ByrneWallace to date has been excellent due to the welcoming, challenging and empowering work environment. If given the opportunity, I know that I would thrive in and contribute greatly to the firm in delivering excellent client service as a trainee solicitor

Before studying the LLM, I completed a four-year BSc in Government in UCC. These endeavours have led to me acquiring strong analytical and research skills and attention to detail. This is best illustrated by my dissertation focused on gender discrimination towards female politicians in the media within Ireland which received a first class honours. I was also awarded and published within the New York State Assembly for a policy and political analysis research paper on The Reproductive Healthcare Act of New York. I am highly capable of conducting independent legal research and critical analysis due to my time within the EPA too. For example, I am encouraged to engage in in-depth analysis of the financial provision instruments received such as bonds and insurance policies amongst others. Moreover, I am empowered to conduct analyses of the licences and policy reviews. I am highly capable of working towards deadlines too as my time management skills are superb. As a legislative assistant in the Office of Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick of the New York State Assembly, I prepared policy research papers, legislative memorandums and preparatory materials within strict timeframes. Similarly, I work to strict deadlines in the EPA whilst assisting with the acquisition of, analysis and implementation of financial provision instruments. Moreover, I thrive in high pressure situations whilst maintaining diligence, calmness and high performance standards.

Furthermore, I have great communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills due to organising, preparing for and leading meetings with constituents, interest groups and professional lobbyists whilst acting as a legislative assistant. I am also able to engage with licensees and other stakeholders in the financial provision process such as insurers, in a confident manner along with staff within the Irish Courts due to my time as a filing and delivery clerk within PJ O'Driscoll & Sons Solicitors. My administrative skills are highly developed too and I am equipped in email management, Google Suite operation, excel spreadsheet creation and organisation of filing systems. I am proficient in IT skills and Microsoft Office applications due to the positions I have held and the completion of the ECDL course. My ability to work independently but also as part of a team, my exceptional research, organisational and communication skills are further highlighted in the four-day feminist intervarsity conference I planned, organised and ran as the FemPower Officer of UCC Feminist Society.

I am very quick to learn and consider myself to be hardworking, flexible, reliable, extremely honest and an excellent time-keeper. Moreover, I am enthusiastic and passionate about the firm's broad range of practice areas, especially that of health and social care law. The legal lacuna on surrogacy in Ireland is an area which I am interested in and I am awaiting the result of my LLM dissertation which focused on an appropriate legal response to protecting the human rights of the surrogate involved in commercial surrogacy overseas. Due to technological advances and other aspects, medical law and healthcare in general is constantly changing and new challenges are emerging which makes it an exciting area in which to work. ByrneWallace is well renowned for being a top tier firm in this area and I would be grateful for the opportunity to learn from such highly qualified professionals.

I am extremely capable and I know that if you gave me the opportunity, you would find that I am intensely motivated and committed to achieving goals. I am more than capable due to the positions that I have held and my time within ByrneWallace thus far serves to illustrate this. I would be extremely grateful to learn and develop within a firm that evidently values progressiveness, excellence, diversity, equality and empowerment. Whilst I have not taken a traditional legal pathway into the profession, the experiences and knowledge I have gained have deepened my appreciation of the law and I know that these will enable me to become a well-rounded solicitor. I firmly believe that I can contribute further to the firm's excellence as a trainee solicitor and ultimately, as a solicitor.

Yours sincerely,  
Kelly Mc Eveney.