

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Lara Hand and I am a Law & French Graduate from Trinity College, Dublin. I am writing in application for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace. I am highly motivated and eager to pursue a career as a commercial solicitor. Working with New Beginning affords me the opportunity to deal with a dynamic and rapidly changing area of law and it involves not only legal but also financial and policy aspects. This experience has developed my commercial awareness and business sense as well as negotiation skills. I find this work has made me highly versatile and adaptable when dealing with cases cases.

I am drawn to the challenging, varied and complex nature of the work carried out by corporate law firms, such as Byrne Wallace. I would like to build on my experience in New Beginning and to pursue a career as a lawyer where I not only have to use my legal reasoning and knowledge but also commercial, political and industry awareness. The opportunity to find practical solutions that are beneficial to clients' business and achieve tangible results is particularly appealing to me. I believe that a traineeship with Byrne Wallace will provide me with the best possible training and enable me to become a truly excellent lawyer.

My work for the Irish Innocence Project has developed my analytical abilities and encouraged me to think innovatively and creatively as well as logically about problems in order to find a range of practical solutions. Many of our clients have been failed by the standard approach to their case and, consequently, original and tailored solutions are often required. This experience has also developed my clinical legal and investigative skills.

I not only wish to develop my current interests but relish the challenge of learning about new areas, such as Commercial Litigation and Employment Law, thereby gaining a broad range of experience and expanding my interests. Personal insolvency, bankruptcy and compensation claims are areas of law that I had not studied in university but I have embraced the opportunity to explore them in my work at New Beginning. The diverse range of Byrne Wallace's practice areas and expertise is impressive. I would like the opportunity to work for high quality corporate national and international clients such as Renatus Capital Partners Ltd and 3D4Medical. Such clients have complex needs and require innovative and original solutions. The service provided must be practical and commercially driven and a range of factors must be taken into consideration, not just legal, in order to provide the highest quality service possible.

What sets Byrne Wallace apart for me is that trainees are assigned to partner in each of the departments in which they gain experience as part of the partner led approach. It is an invaluable opportunity to learn through example and be guided by someone with such experience. I have had the opportunity to work with former bankers, barristers, solicitors and accountants and understand how beneficial learning from senior professionals can be. I aspire to work with people of a high calibre who will help me improve my abilities and the quality of my work. Presently I work with people who come from a variety of backgrounds, including banking, business, economics, finance and law. In my experience, it is beneficial to consider a situation from several perspectives in order to find the optimum solution, which may not necessarily be the most obvious way of doing things but may suit a client's needs best.

I would be honoured to work for such a prestigious firm that is the only Irish firm to have been awarded the Lexcel Standard of Excellence. The pragmatic and personable approach to business espoused by Byrne Wallace is particularly appealing to me and reflects my own. This approach has been consistently recognised by clients and Chambers Global, Chambers & Partners Europe and Legal 500 alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Lara Hand