22 North Glebe

Kildare Town

Co. Kildare

5th February 2019

Beth Onslow

Summer Internship Programme

ByrneWallace

My name is Laura O’Brien and I wish to apply for the ByrneWallace Intern Programme 2019. I recently graduated with a first-class honours law degree from the University of Limerick, where I received three consecutive letters of commendation from the President of the University for outstanding academic achievement. I would like the opportunity to be part of a firm with a strong culture of collegiality and commitment to continuous employee encouragement.

Since graduating in August, I have successfully passed four FE1 examinations and plan to sit the remainder in March 2019. I am currently working in the Legal Tech and Innovation Services department in Arthur Cox, where I have gained experience in Litigation and eDiscovery. This has given me a deeper understanding of the GDPR regulatory changes that affect both the holding and processing of data. From working in Arthur Cox, I learned that I enjoy the challenge of working in a fast-paced legal environment while striving to maintain a high standard of work under pressure.

Byrne Wallace Intern Programme provides the opportunity to gain experience across several practice areas which enables interns to explore their interests and demonstrates a commitment to developing future talent. I have a keen interest in Commercial Law and was impressed to learn that Byrne Wallace was awarded the Commercial Law Firm of the Year in the ACQ5 Law Awards 2018. As ByrneWallace is a market leader in this area, it is an ideal workplace to gain exceptional on the job training.

Although I have an interest in commercial law, I am eager to explore other legal areas. During my undergraduate degree, I completed a nine-month placement in Holmes O’Malley Sexton solicitors where I gained practical legal experience. My first rotation was in the Personal Injuries Unit where I assisted solicitors by drafting client correspondence and preparing briefs for High Court. Following this, I was based in the Commercial Property department, where I ensured that client matter files were kept up to date. After returning to college, I continued to work at HOMS on a part-time basis as a floating paralegal to further my experience. I greatly enjoyed this placement and the experience confirmed my desire to pursue a career in law.

One of the highlights of my degree was working alongside the European Network Against Racism Ireland to prepare a shadow report on the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. My research focused on the discrepancies that occur in the reporting, recording and investigation of racially motivated hate crime. I was invited to present my research to a group of representatives from ENAR Ireland and other civil society organisations that promote social justice. Due to my interest in human rights issues, I was impressed to learn of the strong Corporate Social Responsibility Programme that has been established within Byrne Wallace. I believe this shows the firms commitment to build strong relationships with the local community.

Throughout university, I was heavily involved in moot court competitions, reaching the semi-final of the A&L sponsored moot in 2016. My interest developed in transition year through the Public Access to Law Mock Trial Competition. Following this experience, I was selected to proceed to the Mock Trial World Competition in Brooklyn District Court. Adjusting to the American legal system was challenging at first, however, it helped me develop my critical thinking skills and to I learned to collaborate effectively with my teammates. In my final year, I assisted in the launch of the first HOMS Sponsored UL v Cambridge Annual Mooting Competition by liaising between members of the faculty of the UL School of Law and employees of the firm.

I believe that my commercial drive and strong work ethic would make me a suitable candidate for this firm. I am confident that ByrneWallace will provide exceptional training and the opportunity to work alongside legal practitioners with unrivalled knowledge of the industry. For these reasons, I would be grateful for the opportunity to interview for this programme.

Yours sincerely,

Laura O’Brien