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19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **Trainee Solicitor Programme Application**

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my interest in the Trainee Solicitor Programme offered by Byrne Wallace. I believe I am a suitable candidate. I have recently completed all 8 Fe-1 exams and I am currently working as a paralegal in the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA). Prior to this I spent nearly 3 years working in a commercial law firm in Brisbane, Australia.

In early 2012, I decided to take a year out to travel. During this time I began working in Thynne & Macartney (T&M), a member of the International Alliance of Law Firms. T&M recognised that I was hardworking, ambitious and assertive. They saw my potential and encouraged me to qualify as a solicitor in Australia. I was sponsored by T&M and worked as a paralegal in their Banking and Finance Department for nearly 3 years. I was grateful for this opportunity; the role provided me with relevant exposure to the pressures of a fast paced professional legal environment. I resigned from T&M and spent some time travelling and volunteering before returning home to Ireland.

Since early 2015, I have been working as a paralegal in NAMA. It has been an excellent place to develop the international banking and property experience I gained in Australia while also working closely alongside 40 solicitors from various backgrounds. The skills, knowledge and expertise I acquire daily from working closely with so many professionals in the current legal industry has been invaluable. I thoroughly enjoy my current role but unfortunately NAMA do not offer traineeships. My colleagues and line manager are aware that I am actively seeking a traineeship and are very supportive of this decision.

I am attracted to Byrne Wallace given its strong reputation and experience in diverse areas of law and most recently being awarded Law Firm of the Year 2016. The unique and high calibre Trainee Solicitor Programme appeals to my natural ambition to continually strive to improve myself professionally. I recently attended the Byrne Wallace Trainee Open Evening which I found to be extremely informative. It was a great opportunity to converse with the current trainees and other professionals in Byrne Wallace and understand the culture of the firm. Further, as a result of tenders and release work I carry out in NAMA, I often liaise with Byrne Wallace and find them to be most efficient and professional to work with. I look forward to the challenge and progression of my career and I hope that you might consider me for the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace.

If I am fortunate to secure an interview with Byrne Wallace, please note that due to family commitments, I will be overseas from Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 until Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, however I will be fully contactable by email during this time and I hope it does not cause any inconvenience.

Thank you for considering my application and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

  
Laura O'Farrell