

Ms. Leah Keating
64 Roebuck Downs,
Dublin 14.
leah.j.keating@gmail.com
085-1693691

Ms. Ciara Loftus
HR Manager
88 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Ms. Loftus,

Re: Application for Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the position of trainee solicitor at Byrne Wallace. I am a final year student at University College Dublin, studying a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) degree with the view to establishing an exciting law career at your firm.

A career in law has been of great interest to me from a young age, this interest was solidified following time spent with Nolan Farrell and Goff Solicitors and Notaries in Waterford for my transition year work experience where I was introduced to the fast-paced and ever-changing role of solicitors. Throughout my studies at UCD this general interest in law has been fine tuned to a particularly strong interest in commercial law which I have developed through modules such as Employment Law, Banking Law and Company Law. This has led me to believe that training at Byrne Wallace, one of Ireland's leading law firm would be a fantastic opportunity to nourish these interests.

In August 2020 I entered into an extremely competitive application process alongside over 700 other aspirants for a part-time position working for RFA Investments. Despite having no tangible experience in this area, I excelled in my interview and was chosen as one of two successful candidates for the position. This ability to stand out as an applicant demonstrates my determination for success as well as my excellent communication skills. These are characteristics which I believe would be invaluable to the role of trainee at Byrne Wallace.

I have consistently maintained part-time employment throughout my studies which I believe demonstrates resilience and strict discipline. This is an achievement that I am extremely proud of as studying Law at UCD is an exceptionally demanding degree, yet I have managed to maintain a 2:1 throughout my studies despite the various obstacles and time constraints my employment has presented. Prior to my current position I worked as a technical agent for Infosys BPM in Waterford. This role has many similarities to the role of trainee solicitor as I regularly exercised my skills in conflict resolution by negotiating between my employer and the company's customers to find solutions that satisfied both parties. Infosys BPM was a very fast-paced and high-pressure environment, similar to a busy commercial law firm. I thrived in this setting and was often praised for my ability to think independently and deliver effective solutions to difficult customer problems. This role provided me with great satisfaction and solidified my belief that I would excel in the career path of a commercial solicitor.

A training contract at Byrne Wallace appeals to me as it would provide an excellent opportunity to immerse myself in the vast array of practice areas encompassed by your firm. As a law student, I am acutely aware of the considerable differences which exist between legal academia and actual legal practice. Byrne Wallace would be the perfect environment to allow me to bridge these differences as a trainee and become a well-rounded young solicitor under the guidance of your experienced team. Finally, I am greatly interested in the emphasis on diversity and inclusion at Byrne Wallace, as a Waterford native who moved to Dublin to pursue a career in Law I am very aware of the various obstacles that exist for young Law enthusiasts with no professional contacts in the commercial sphere. The ability to train at a firm which provides equal opportunity to all would be an environment in which I would thrive.

Thank you for considering my application, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss why I would be an excellent candidate for this position further at an interview.

Yours sincerely,

Leah Keating