

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Application for Trainee Solicitor Programme.**

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the position of trainee solicitor at Byrne Wallace. I have spent 4 years studying at University College Dublin, graduating in 2021 with a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) degree. Following the completion of my degree I have furthered my legal education by undertaking and passing all eight FE-1 entrance examinations for the Law Society of Ireland.

I am currently working as a senior paralegal in the Class Actions Department at Slater and Gordon Lawyers in Melbourne, Australia. This diverse position requires liaising with clients and delegating tasks to junior paralegals, thus allowing for the development of my interpersonal and problem-solving skills which would be crucial for a trainee solicitor at Byrne Wallace. Central to my current role is the provision of legal assistance to the participants in a number of class actions, this is an element of my work which I thoroughly enjoy and has reinforced my desire to pursue a career as a solicitor. Currently, I am responsible for assisting with the training of paralegals who have recently joined my team. This is reflective of my leadership skills as well as my ability to succeed in a fast-paced law firm.

I consistently maintained part-time employment throughout my studies at both undergraduate and FE-1 level. I believe this demonstrates resilience and time-management skills which would be vital for a trainee solicitor at Byrne Wallace. In my final semester at UCD I achieved a 3.8 GPA notwithstanding the complications associated with the new online learning environment. This displays my ability to quickly adapt to and excel in new environments.

Byrne Wallace's commitment to providing comprehensive training and development opportunities to its trainee solicitors is very appealing to me as I believe I will thrive in an environment that is both challenging and supportive. Finally, my time spent working on a number of pro bono class actions has sparked my interest in lending my skills to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. As Byrne Wallace is a firm recognised for its work with the Solas Project and its commitment to community work, I believe this would be the perfect environment for me to develop as a legal professional while also helping others to reach their full potential.

Thank you for considering my application. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Leah Keating