Leah Meenaghan

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30/09/21

Byrne Wallace

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to apply for the position of trainee lawyer in Byrne Wallace. I hope to be successful in securing a place for the reasons outlined below.

I am fully committed to a career in law. I am currently working as a legal intern in Duane Morris LLP in New York. I applied to work here as I wanted to gain experience working in a different jurisdiction, especially in an environment as intense and demanding as New York city. I recently finished my traineeship in the European Union Intellectual Property Office, a position I secured by being nominated by my University and selected by the EUIPO. In the past, I have also worked as a legal intern in AMOSS solicitors, a position that reaffirmed my decision to become a solicitor. I worked in the litigation department, preparing booklets for counsel and for court, compiling evidence for partners and observing hearings and trials. I am certain that my professional development would grow immeasurably if afforded the opportunity to embark on a training contract with Byrne Wallace, and work alongside other trainees, associates and partners who are experts in their field.

I am extremely eager to gain a place on the Byrne Wallace training programme for many reasons. First and foremost, Byrne Wallace deals with clients in a vast array of areas of law. I am particularly interested in the areas of Intellectual Property and technology. Having studied IP law in UCD, I was eager to explore my interest further, in an international setting. I applied for the Pan-European Seal Traineeship in the EUIPO and worked alongside IP experts, identifying trademarks that did not meet the criteria and drafting letters to applicants, among other tasks. I am eager to pursue my interest in this field, both in a contentious and non-contentious respect at Byrne Wallace. This is particularly due to the calibre of lawyers I would be working alongside, such as Darren Daly and the broad range of clients I would be advising.

Above all, I am drawn to Byrne Wallace because of the firm of the firm’s culture and core values. It is clear to me from my speaking to my peers who are training with and due to train with Byrne Wallace, that the atmosphere in Byrne Wallace is refreshingly approachable. In UCD, I attended numerous Law Fairs and talks where current trainees spoke about their experiences training in the firm. It stood out to me that the trainees at the Byrne Wallace stand were passionate about their jobs, which further encouraged me to apply.

Thirdly, the encouragement to maintain a work-life balance stood out to me because while I am committed to pursuing a career in law, I am determined to maintain hobbies and volunteering activities outside of work. My hobbies include music and sewing. I embroider, tailor and create clothes, both for myself and to sell online on online marketplaces. I have always been an avid music lover and in recent years found a passion in music creation and performance. When living in Spain, I was afforded the opportunity to play regularly at a nightclub to an audience of my friends and locals which was a new experience for me, and encouraged me to improve my skills in music production and performance. I also admire Byrne Wallace’s ethics in relation to corporate social responsibility. Reading about the firm’s drive to reduce energy consumption and decrease carbon emittance inspires me. I would love to be part of a firm that shares my principles on the environment and work with people who share my desire to lead an ethical and sustainable life.

Lastly, I believe the core values of Byrne Wallace mirror my own. The firm strives for professional excellence and innovative team work in order to maximise client satisfaction. My experience working as part of a team in both a corporate setting and in the service industry, combined with my independent learning in college demonstrates that whilst I thrive working alongside team-members, I am capable of managing myself and acting with authority. Moreover, I consistently strive to achieve excellence, I endeavour to surpass expectations and I will commit myself to my clients and to the firm.

I am available for a virtual interview at any time and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Leah Meenaghan