

18 October 2018

Dear Beth Onslow and the Trainee Recruiting Committee,

My name is Magdalena Jasinska and I am writing to you today to apply for the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

My journey to this point has not been conventional. I was born and grew up in Poland where I studied up to Matura, (the Polish equivalent of the Leaving Certificate). After finishing school in Poland, I decided that I wanted to avail of further education and potential employment opportunities in Ireland, which at the time, showed greater prospects and were more promising than what was on offer in Poland.

In order to apply for university, I realised that I would need to sit the Leaving Certificate exams as the CAO could not convert my Polish examination results. Overcoming language difficulties, two days after arriving in Ireland I started my Leaving Certificate year. I sat the Leaving Certificate examination and achieved 430 points. While my application was not considered by most universities, (I did not meet their Irish language entry requirements), I was offered a place in IT Carlow. During college, I worked as a waitress at the weekends and full time during my summer holidays to pay my tuition fees and graduated with a 2.1 law degree in 2014.

One of first experiences in commercial legal work was a secondment with Mason Hayes & Curran, where I assisted on a due diligence project pertaining to a loan sale portfolio of c. 3000 loans. Subsequently, at Pepper Asset Servicing, I assisted the commercial real estate team with day-to-day portfolio management. At Insomnia, I assisted the CFO with the financial restructuring of the company, GDPR audits and other company secretarial matters. In my current role at Arthur Cox, I have been allocated more senior responsibilities within the team including detailed quality control reviews of work completed by junior team members. I have also been entrusted with assisting in the management of two remediation projects with minimum supervision and have received encouraging feedback on both my project and time management skills.

In Pepper, I also had the opportunity to work with ByrneWallace and in particular with James Peters with the direct involvement of the banking and insolvency departments on a number of projects as well as security enforcement transactions. The consistently excellent legal service provided by the firm was at the core of developing a strong business relationship with Pepper. For that reason I am particularly interested to train with ByrneWallace and gain experience in building long lasting working relationships and networking skills to aid me in becoming the best lawyer I can be with the support and mentorship from the partners in the firm.

What really appeals to me in the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme is the exposure to challenging work for top-class commercial clients and the impressive extent of responsibility that the trainees are awarded with since day one. I developed a particular interest in the areas of banking and financial services during my time in Pepper and Arthur Cox, and I am certain that I will benefit from the well-rounded commercial training provided by the firm through the challenging variety of assignments offered in the range of different practice areas.

I was impressed to learn about the culture of diversity within the firm at the recent Trainee Open Evening and I was delighted to know that the firm supports the somewhat colourful paths taken by the trainees in the firm to achieve their goals. I believe that ByrneWallace will be an excellent place to kick-start my career, taking into account my cultural background and my journey up to this point. I am also fond of the open-plan office layout in the firm as it promotes a working environment of direct collaboration that contributes to greater teamwork.

In addition, I was pleased to learn about the variety of sporting and other team building activities the firm engages in which is a great way to channel my ambitious nature.

Outside of work, I am a fitness and gym enthusiast and I like to engage in volunteering opportunities whenever possible. Hence I am excited to learn about the firm's collaboration and support for Solas's mission. I have also begun to appreciate the enjoyment and art of cooking having recently becoming vegetarian.

Beyond the above, I am a very personable character and I have grown in each position held and often became a key member of a team.

I believe that my skills, experience and most of all my personality fit well with what you are looking for in a trainee solicitor and I am very excited about the opportunity to continue my legal career with ByrneWallace.

Yours sincerely,

Magdalena Jasinska