Bánmór,

Báile Shéain,

Co. Chill Chainningh.

01/10/2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Marion O’Connell and I am applying for a position as a Trainee Solicitor at ByrneWallace. I am a newly qualified BCL Law and Irish graduate from University College and am currently working as a paralegal while I commence preparation for the Law Society’s FE1 Entrance Examinations. I attended the Byrne Wallace open evening on Tuesday night and the open, professional environment I was greeted with has really confirmed my decision to apply for a traineeship here.

I am currently employed as a paralegal in Arthur Cox’s Litigation Discovery department. Here I am really getting to grips with the fast-paced environment of a commercial law firm and it is something that really appeals to me. This role requires a high level of consistent teamwork and leadership because good communication is essential for the project-based work. My other legal experience includes the interesting and stimulating Summer Internship that I completed in Missoula, Montana, USA in 2017. In addition to learning the specialized skills of the legal services provided at Boone Karlberg P.C. I also advanced many other transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, and computer proficiency. Prior to this, whilst an exchange student at the University of Montana's postgraduate Law School, I also successfully completed a Judicial Internship at the Federal Court, District of Montana. I assisted the Court Clerk in legal research, compiling it into written briefs and memorandums for the Honourable Judges. I also regularly got to engage in legal discussion and debate with judges on all kinds of issues. This both enhanced my personal development and demonstrated my adaptability as an individual. I continually maintained 2H1 results throughout my degree and I feel that these results are indicative of how hardworking and determined I am and demonstrate my strong academic ability.

The BCL Law and Irish programme not only provided a comprehensive grounding in the main areas of law but gave me the opportunity to study modules such as Clinical Legal Skills, where I advanced my practical and analytical skills. I was given an unprecedented opportunity to study not only legal modules that interested me but also one of my main passions, the Irish language. Studying Constitutional Law (Dlí Bunreachtúil) through Irish which was a real highlight of my undergraduate experience. As well as this I am also very interested in Business and Law. I took subjects such as Financial Services Law, and Company Law while at UCC and a Business Organisations class at Law School in Montana. My strong results in these subjects reflect my strong abilities in these areas. As a member of Ógra Fianna Fáil I am particularly interested in current affairs and politics. I studied Economics for my leaving cert and I regularly attend political events and conferences cantered around economic discussion. Brexit and other international political affairs pose many challenges for the commercial legal sector in Ireland, however this is a challenge that I am more than happy to accept. Training as a Solicitor in this top-tier international firm such as Arthur Cox in this time of change would be a fantastic and exciting journey for me.

I am active, avid camogie player and I have played for my local club St. Annes Johnstown since 2002 as well as competing for the University of Montana’s hurling team, winning the NCGAA All-American National Collegiate Championship in May 2017. Debating is another real interest of mine. In both Secondary School and University, I have continued this hobby. Some of my debating achievements include; Concern Debating All Ireland Semi-Finalist team member 2013, CEIST schools debating winner 2013, Gael Linn All Ireland Debating winner 2011.

I am aware of the high degree of importance that the firm attaches to corporate social responsibility including your charity and not-for-profit work, as well as the other projects that support the community. As someone with a keen interest in youth and political affairs these are sentiments that really resonate with me. On Tuesday evening I spoke with other ByrneWallace trainees about initiatives such as Solas, this sounds like something I would really love to get involved with.

I have also enclosed my CV and recent references, which I hope you have time to read. I would be extremely grateful to be given the opportunity to train as a solicitor a ByrneWallace. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you require anything else as part of my application.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Marion.