

## COVER LETTER OF MARK GILSENAN

To the Graduate Recruitment Manager,

With reference to the ByrneWallace Traineeship Programme, I believe that I have the necessary experience, skills and motivation to be an effective trainee and I hope you agree that I am a suitable candidate for this position. The opportunity to train in ByrneWallace, a firm synonymous with quality legal advice, is one I would not take for granted.

My aspiration of becoming a solicitor solidified itself in June 2019 when I opted to work as an intern in O'Brien Lynam Solicitors. My internship comprised valuable exposure to their commercial, private client services, litigation, banking and insurance departments. I enjoyed gaining first-hand experience of the meticulous preparation that goes into each case and became very interested in the process that each document must follow.

More recently, I accepted an internship with William Fry Solicitors last Autumn. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant the internship was cancelled. However, to compensate for this I was afforded the opportunity to regularly interact with a William Fry partner and Lisa McGoldrick (Graduate Programme Manager). They gave me a great insight into what a career as a solicitor entails and the training process in general.

My experience with William Fry and O'Brien Lynam made it clear to me that training as a solicitor is the first step I want to take after college.

A recurring theme which seemed to flow through the ByrneWallace Trainee Insights Webinar was the importance of teamwork. Teamwork has played an integral role in many aspects of my life. I am a keen sports enthusiast involved in a number of sports including golf, rugby, soccer and sailing. I am currently a member of Old Belvedere RFC, Elm Park Golf Club and Tara Glen Golf and Country Club, the latter of which I was appointed Junior Captain in 2016. This honour helped me to establish valuable leadership skills such as public speaking and organising. I developed these skills further when I was made captain of my school rugby team in St. Michael's College in 5th year and again in 6th year.

Being a part of various clubs and participating in team sports has taught me the value of a collaborative, inclusive team-work ethic which I will bring to ByrneWallace if I am offered this position.

Aside from sport, I have always had a very strong personal work ethic and have held a number of regular part-time positions in order to finance myself through school and university. My part-time work in retail in an Off-Licence, a position I have retained since leaving school, has helped develop my interpersonal skills and sense of personal responsibility and reliability. My strong work ethic resulted in perhaps my biggest personal achievement to date in receiving an Entrance Scholarship into Business & Law from UCD. This award was immensely satisfying and it reaffirmed to me the fact that hard work pays off.

Training in a top-tier and market leading firm such as ByrneWallace would be an invaluable experience. In particular, the aspects of the ByrneWallace Traineeship Programme which appeal to me are the strong developmental culture in the Firm and the opportunity to work on important, real-life cases. I would make the most of these opportunities and, if I am offered this position, I will make an active contribution to the Firm and train to the best of my ability.

Regards,

***Mark Gilsenan***