

105 Ferndale,
Navan,
Co. Meath

Ms. Beth Onslow,
HR Administrator,
Byrne Wallace,
88 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Ms. Onslow,

I am writing to you in order to apply for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme. My name is Naoise Duffy, and I am currently working as a Legal Assistant with McGrath McGrane Solicitors. I graduated from Maynooth University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Civil Law and English (International) Degree, and I completed the Law Society FE1 Examinations in March 2017. I am an ambitious, focused and hardworking person, and I believe that having the opportunity to work within a firm such as Byrne Wallace, with lawyers who are at the forefront of the practice and development of law in Ireland, would provide an unparalleled foundation on which to build my career as a solicitor.

Byrne Wallace's renowned reputation in the fields of commercial law, business and a vast array of other sectors, as well as its continuing development and expertise which has ensured that it remains at the forefront of the practice of law in Ireland is a key factor in why I am applying for this position. My interest in commercial and European law was first piqued as a result of my studies in Belgium, the centre of European Law and trade. I have since gained practical experience of a number of areas of law through working in various legal settings and positions, such as my current role as Legal Assistant. I would relish the opportunity to use and improve on the skills I have gained in a commercial setting, and to develop my interest in commercial law into concrete legal knowledge. The Trainee Solicitor Programme at Byrne Wallace would provide me with a unique and excellent environment in which to do this.

I am also extremely attracted to Byrne Wallace's emphasis on innovation and frequently striving to develop new and progressive ways to approach legal issues and projects. I believe that working within such an environment would give me the opportunity to nourish my own skills of innovation and problem-solving. My work with the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) has allowed me to develop these skills, particularly through assisting callers to the legal information telephone line with a wide variety of legal issues, and through projects such as the publication of legal information leaflets. Having the opportunity to further build upon these skills in an environment that promotes innovation and forward-thinking would be an invaluable experience.

A final reason which motivated my application to Byrne Wallace is the importance placed on collaboration and teamwork. Often overlooked in favour of equally necessary skills such as experience or aptitude, teamwork is nonetheless a vital part of the practice of law, something which Byrne Wallace consistently promotes and reinforces. Through my position on the ELSA Ireland National Legal Research team, as well as my involvement with a number of committees during my time at Maynooth University, I have had the opportunity not only to strengthen my ability to work efficiently with others, but to understand the absolute necessity of building strong relationships with those you work with. I believe such skills would be valuable in a commercial legal environment, and working with Byrne Wallace would provide an incomparable setting in which to further hone these skills.

I hope you will consider my application for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme. I have attached the completed application form and a copy of my CV. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Naoise Duffy

