

**Patrick Cantwell**

150 Clifden Court, Ellis Quay, Dublin 7, D07 X967  
M: 0852138936 E: patrickcantwell97@icloud.com

4th October 2021

Graduate Recruitment Team  
ByrneWallace LLP  
88 Harcourt St  
Saint Kevin's  
Dublin  
D02 DK18

**RE: Trainee Solicitor 2022 Vacancy**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am both an MSc International Law and Business Graduate, and Bachelor of Corporate Law Graduate from UCD and NUIG respectively. I graduated from UCD with a First Class Honours whilst graduating with an Upper Second Class Honours from NUIG, ranking 8<sup>th</sup> out of a class of 43. I have just recently completed all 8 FE1 examinations. My results consisted of the following, Company Law (64%); EU Law (64%) Property Law (62%) Tort Law (62%) Criminal Law (60%) Contract Law (60%) Equity Law (60%) and finally, Constitutional Law (54%). At present, I have re-joined McCann FitzGerald as a Legal Executive in the Finance Department reporting directly to a Partner as a member of the banking team servicing a large client namely, the Housing Finance Agency and liaising with their solicitors and those of the authorized housing bodies in order to ensure to ensure that all schemes are progressed efficiently. Prior to undertaking the FE1s, I was working as a Legal Review Assistant in the Project Services team of McCann FitzGerald for 8 months antecedent to the onset of the pandemic. I worked on matters with the Litigation, Construction and Real Estate departments. I thrived in this environment working as part of a team and working on my own initiative in order to meet strict deadlines. These tasks such as working on an E-Discovery and preparing reports regarding contentious Conciliation Claims for the client to name a few, required keen attention to detail and I believed that I completed all tasks to the highest standard. This is evidenced by the fact that due to my performances with the Construction Department I was requested by a Partner to become an exclusive resource to their team.

There are several reasons why I am applying to ByrneWallace LLP for a traineeship. Firstly, ByrneWallace boasts a broad array of practice areas coupled with a diverse range of clients which results in an enriching trainee experience. The firm is the market leader in Employment Law matters advising a wide variety of clients in this regard such as state bodies, trade unions and prominent private sector companies. Notable clients include The Irish Civil Service, The

Central Bank of Ireland, and the Irish Times. I garnered a considerable interest in Employment Law matters throughout my Masters and Undergraduate degree and it is an area that I would hold a keen interest in gaining practical experience in. Furthermore, the firm has solidified a prominent presence in the Healthcare and Life Science Sectors which represents the strategic foothold BryneWallace has in areas which are pivotal to the Irish Economy. Ireland includes operations of eight of the world's ten largest medical device companies. A key aspect of my decision to pursue my Masters was appreciating how Ireland is a hub for foreign direct investment due to our favorable corporate tax regime and skilled workforce. Therefore, I wanted to understand how to advise multinationals on entering and establishing themselves in the Irish market. ByrneWallace has a strong reputation in this regard, particularly concerning pharmaceutical, medical device companies and public bodies. The firm is instrumental in advising these international clients on Irish regulation. This represents an extremely attractive and exciting environment to a prospective trainee solicitor. Furthermore, ByrneWallace's esteemed reputation in the public sector is second to none representing clients in litigation, judicial review proceedings and statutory inquiries. The opportunity to work on cases dealing with some of the most important and pressing issues in our society whilst being supported and surrounded by the country's leading legal practitioners is an opportunity few firms can provide. What stands out in BryneWallace's trainee offering is the emphasis that the firm places on developing future leaders with many of the firm's partners beginning their legal careers with BryneWallace as trainees. This alone is indicative of the fact that training with BryneWallace undoubtedly translates to formative years in the development of exceptional legal talent. Lastly, I largely resonate with the vision within ByrneWallace, that of a progressive, forward-thinking law firm who embrace technology to assist them as opposed to viewing it as a threat. The fact that ByrneWallace are integrating technology into their offering to provide the most effective service to their client is indicative of the fact the firm is supplementing the ever-present foundations laid in order to continue to be a major player in the Irish market through the wave of the technological age.

I believe that my unique selling point is both my positive and open-minded workplace attitude coupled with my experience of performing in pressurized situations in a legal environment. This will allow me to make a real contribution to the firm's trainee programme from the outset. I am eager to constantly develop professionally and I understand the value of a traineeship within an organization of the caliber of ByrneWallace. My work ethic is truly second to none which has been fostered throughout my part-time work experiences and education which has effectively transferred into my present role. In currently working as a Legal Executive in a team of Associates and Senior Associates and completing identical work to the Associates on the team, I understand what is expected of a trainee and I am under no illusions of what it takes to succeed.

ByrneWallace LLP Cover Letter

4th October 2021

Page 3

I am proficient in the Microsoft Office Suite and would consider myself tech savvy utilizing AI tools such as Kira, E-Discovery platforms such as Relativity, and managing collaborative data rooms in my previous employment.

I would love to answer any questions should you require anymore information regarding my suitability to the role.

Thank you for taking the time to read my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Cantwell