

Ciara Loftus
HR Manager
ByrneWallace
88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

Dear Ms. Loftus,

I am interested in applying to become a trainee at Byrne Wallace. Having passed all my FE1 examinations as of March 2020, I am eligible to begin PPC1 as soon as next September.

I am currently working as a Paralegal in Fieldfisher Ireland, giving me first-hand experience dealing with the demands of a large corporate law firm. Working in the Public and Regulatory department has exposed me to a variety of challenges supporting solicitors preparing for fitness to practice inquiries. No two cases are the same, throwing up unique sets of demands that have to be adjusted to. This often includes unanticipated developments which puts you under pressure to meet strict deadlines, which has really honed my organisational skills and adaptability.

My previous roles have given me a unique and well-rounded perspective that other candidates may not share.

In my role at in Enki Law Searchers I gained experience carrying out practical legal tasks and meeting strict deadlines. I also had to be quite adaptable and pitch in with other areas of the firm due to staffing shortages and other COVID-19 related difficulties. My roles in CLM and Transparency International Ireland exposed me to a distinct set of experiences and challenges working in the legal sector. Both are non-profit organisations with limited resources, meaning I was given a great deal of responsibility and little in the way of supervision.

As these latter placements were also unpaid, I had to work a part-time job simultaneously on both occasions. This resulted in 6 and even 7-day work weeks, with my time in CLM also overlapping with studying for FE1 examinations. I believe this illustrates my ambitious and determined nature, as well as an ability to multitask and work long hours.

My experiences outside work showcase a number of other skills and traits I possess. The "Trinity for Neutrality" campaign and the Accenture-Trinity Entrepreneurship Competition showcase my communication skills and my ability to work effectively in a team, whereas the John White Prize shortlisting illustrates my aptitude for research and self-expression.

To conclude, the opportunity to train at one of Ireland's biggest law firm is one any aspiring solicitor would relish, although not necessarily one which they would be prepared for. My own experience speaks to my ability to thrive in environments where the pressure and demands high, making me more than prepared for life as a trainee in Byrne Wallace. I also believe my passion and non-Law background make me well suited to a firm that thinks progressively and is not afraid to push boundaries.

I sincerely hope you will afford me the opportunity to interview for this position. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bruun-Nielsen