12th of October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for the Trainee Solicitor program offered by Byrne Wallace. I am a final year BCL (International) student in University College Cork.

Firstly, there are several reasons I am interested in pursuing a career in a multi-service legal firm such as Byrne Wallace after I graduate. The branches of law Byrne Wallace works with are dynamic areas that are constantly evolving in light of prevailing circumstances and societal changes. I have a general fear of monotony and want my future career to constantly stimulate me in different ways, require me to adapt to different circumstances and also require me to utilise my skills and abilities to the maximum. Therefore I feel a career within a progressive law firm, such as Byrne Wallace, is for me. I also appreciate the large relevance of Corporate Law, and other areas of law like Employment, Healthcare, and Banking Law in today’s society and the fact that this makes them wise avenues to pursue.

Byrne Wallace’s Trainee program stands out to me amongst all the programs being offered by the different Irish Law firms. I want the best training possible so I will have a great foundation on which to build my career in the future, and in my opinion Byrne Wallace’s program can provide me with this. The main practice areas of this particular firm appeal to me, especially Healthcare and Life Sciences, Intellectual Property, Dispute Resolution, M&A, Employment and Public Sector Law. The list of high profile clients Byrne Wallace has represented is very impressive, such as *Dublin City Council, The HSE, Failte Ireland, Bank of Scotland, Icon Infrastructure* and *the Dublin Airport Authority* to name but a few, and it would be fascinating to work with high profile clients like these if I were to become part of the Byrne Wallace team in the coming years. The open door policy that operates within the firm is appealing, as is the method of training on rotation, as it will allow me as a trainee to gain a broad range of experience in a variety of different legal areas. Finally it cannot go unmentioned the fact that the firm is the only large firm in Ireland to have been awarded the Lexcel Standard of Excellence- an indicator of quality standards in terms of both excellence in legal practice management and client care. The list of other accolades on the firms website also convey a great deal in terms of the high standards the firm clearly operates with- Irish Law Awards Winner, Client Choice Awards Winner and Legal 500 Top Tier Firm to relay only a sample, and I would be very excited to begin my career in Law learning from the individuals within Byrne Wallace who drive the firm to success and achieve such standards of excellence in their daily work.

There are several reasons why I would be a valuable addition to the Byrne Wallace team. I am ambitious and have always been a high achiever academically, and I believe the results I have received in my undergraduate degree to date reflect this. I was in fact proud to be informed by UCC at the end of 2014 that I was placed in the top 15 students of my entire year in Law on the basis of my second year examination results and that I was eligible to apply for the prestigious Arthur cox prize, which I did subsequently submit an application for. My two years as a waitress taught me how to work and perform well under pressure, successfully cooperate and enjoy working with colleagues as part of a team and be in constant contact with members of the public. I am a good communicator and I enjoyed having to advise and be in constant ongoing communication with members on the public during my work experience at the Tralee Court Office. Therefore I wish to pursue a career that involves being in contact, and co-operating with, members of the public on a regular basis. My Erasmus experience in Prague has strengthened my skill of adaptability. Living abroad for a year at only nineteen years of age certainly taught me a great deal in terms of life experience and I can now confidently face any unforeseen circumstances and deal with them whilst always maintaining perspective and logical thinking. Finally, my internship with Comyn Kelleher Tobin, a leading commercial law firm, gave me an insight into the day-to-day duties of a trainee. I really enjoyed this experience and felt I thrived in the particular working environment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. I hope my qualities and skills reveal that I would be a valuable addition to the personnel in Byrne Wallace. I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to train with Byrne Wallace and benefit from all the expertise, skills and knowledge the firm has to offer.

Kind Regards,

Paula Kelly