

20th October 2017

To whom it may concern,

Re: Application for ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme, 2017

I am writing to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme as advertised on your website. I am an Australian combined Arts/Law graduate of the University of Sydney, having completed my first two years at Monash University. I have a strong academic record from both universities and was awarded the University of Sydney Deans' List Academic Merit Prize in 2014. I am relocating permanently to Ireland on 11 November of this year.

As a leading Irish law firm that is renowned for its down-to-earth culture, I am confident that ByrneWallace is the ideal place for me to build an enduring and fulfilling corporate law career in Ireland. I am attracted by the opportunity provided by ByrneWallace's strong position in the Irish market to work with premium clients such as Marcegaglia and the Royal Bank of Canada. I am particularly drawn to the strength of ByrneWallace's Corporate practice, as reflected in its tier 2 Legal 500 ranking and by the fact that it is named as one of Ireland's Top 10 M&A Legal Advisers. This is an area in which I am keen to continue practicing after working on transactions and commercial matters as a graduate lawyer at PwC Legal. Given ByrneWallace's reputed attention to client relationships, evident in its Lexcel accreditation, and practical manner, I believe that it is a firm where my commercially focused approach to legal work, my collaborative nature and my enthusiasm for cultivating professional relationships will be valued.

My university achievements and work experience demonstrate that I possess the motivation, work ethic and team spirit that would allow me to contribute effectively to your firm. My strong written communication and analytical skills are reflected by my attainment of the highest mark in my cohort for the major essay components of my Property A, Property B, Civil Procedure and Introduction to Legal Reasoning subjects. Similarly, two of the articles that I composed as a graduate lawyer at PwC and as a paralegal at Terri Janke & Company have been published.

My highly developed time management skills and proactive attitude are illustrated by my time at PwC, during which I independently managed competing deadlines in a context where on any single day I was able to request or be given tasks at any time, by any lawyer, across the entire Sydney legal team. While working as a paralegal at top tier Australian law firm Clayton Utz during university, I demonstrated my initiative and commercial pragmatism by suggesting a change to a review process, thereby increasing the efficiency of the project. Furthermore, my delivery of presentations on legal developments to the Sydney legal team at PwC, and my success in university law society committees and activities such as mootings attests to my ability to articulate complex legal ideas clearly and under pressure.

My diverse experiences have also helped me to cultivate the strong interpersonal skills and commercial acumen necessary to thrive in ByrneWallace's client-focused environment. At PwC, I was praised for delivering research and succinct legal advice on a business structuring issue that was targeted to addressing the client's business concerns. My ability to collaborate effectively with practitioners of all levels of seniority and strong attention to detail was demonstrated during my participation in a AUD\$20M transaction at PwC and during my time responding to urgent regulatory notices for a high-profile commercial litigation matter at Clayton Utz. Negotiating a financial outcome on behalf of a client which exceeded expectations whilst I was a paralegal at Terri Janke & Company and my experience interviewing vulnerable clients as a volunteer at the Welfare Rights Centre also illustrates my capacity to interact effectively with individuals from all backgrounds.

Given my demonstrated ability to consistently deliver high quality work, I believe that I could make a valuable contribution to ByrneWallace. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Foster