

19 October 2018

Dear Ms. Onslow,

I am writing to apply for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme as advertised on your website. I am a BCL and LL.M graduate of University College Cork and currently work as a legal intern in the Real Estate department of Eversheds Sutherland.

I am drawn to both Byrne Wallace's award winning Healthcare and Litigation & Dispute Resolution departments, however not solely on account of my avid interest and experience in each practice area. My desire to be party to a firm whose exponential growth in these areas emulates an equally progressive culture that fosters curiosity and empowers the individual to consistently deliver practical and bold solutions, is attributable to my own ambitious nature. I am confident that my CV will demonstrate an exceptional academic record in tandem with core strengths in legal research and writing as well as client service – all of which appropriately position me to match the notable calibre of talent garnered in Byrne Wallace's employees, and exceed your expectations for the role of Trainee Solicitor.

In respect of my time at UCC, I have shown the strategic thinking necessary to front and deliver effective client-focussed FLAC employment law clinics, the professionalism to deal directly with representatives of a national non-governmental organisation as a research assistant party to the UCC Child Law Clinic, and the academic ability to achieve exemplary results. I ranked third in my class as an LL.M candidate and was awarded the highest grade on record since the establishment of the UCC Child Law Clinic for my end of year reflective assessment.

In addition, my professional legal experience has offered me ample opportunity to exercise initiative in my work and determine my interests in both litigation and healthcare. As a legal assistant within the Litigation department of Holmes O'Malley Sexton, in addition to meeting with clients independently in respect of a number of stages of personal injury and medical negligence actions, my well tailored legal research and writing skills afforded me the opportunity to write HOMS newsletter articles and website know-hows in respect of topical issues relevant to medical negligence and product liability.

I am eager to procure a training contract with a firm that will challenge me to exceed objective standards of success in this industry, and I am confident that this is what's on offer with Byrne Wallace on the basis of its own performance therein.

By setting a precedent for Irish law firms as the first to achieve gender balance amongst its partners, I am more than assured of the opportunities Byrne Wallace affords its internal stakeholders to feel supported and empowered in pursuit of success. Byrne Wallace's multifaceted policy on diversity, coupled with its countless accolades for business superiority, including its award of 'Overall Law Firm of the Year' in 2018 by the ACQ5 Law Awards, assures me that as a young woman, Byrne Wallace provides an environment of excellence and inclusivity in which I can thrive as a trainee solicitor. This is my central reason for applying.

It would be a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak with you and offer more insight into my qualifications and experience.

Many thanks for reviewing my credentials and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Philippa Bourke