Head of the Trainee Programme

ByrneWallace

20.10.2015

**Re: Trainee Application**

Dear Sirs,

I write to you to apply for a place on the training programme at ByrneWallace to commence in 2017. In support of my application, I have detailed below my reasons for applying to same, some personal background information, and an indication as to what my goals are. I would be grateful if you could please review the within and consider my suitability for the position of trainee at ByrneWallace, as having attended the open evening at ByrneWallace last week, I am confident that I am a suitable candidate for your programme.

**Background**

I recognised the importance at an early stage of having of having an all-round education and as such I decided to study a Bachelor of Arts at college, taking two subjects that I was sure would arm me with transferable skills to any route I pursued. The degree fostered my ability to construct well thought out answers and debate different perspectives. My study of the English language has taught me how to write fluently and professionally; and has also taught me skills with regard to reading and interpreting large volumes of complicated text; both of these tools have greatly benefited me in my legal career to date. My third year of college was spent abroad as an additional year onto my degree, so as to convert the status of my BA to an International BA. I studied at Queen's University in Canada; a top university of Canada. It was an excellent opportunity to have been selected for and to avail of, and I found that the year I spent studying at Queen's was an invaluable learning experience. Aside from my academic studies, I was very involved in the extra-curricular activities that the college had to offer; namely volunteering at the university's newspaper, The Queen's Journal, and securing a place on the university's sailing team, regularly competing against Ivy League universities such as Georgetown, Stanford and Princeton. I returned back to Ireland to finish the final year of my undergraduate degree with greater drive to achieve and this was reflected in my final year results. I also elected to take two business modules as part of my final year, as I was developing an interest in commercial business, wanted to gain some insight into this area and desired a more corporate focus by the end of the degree. The business modules provided practical emphasis on what occurs in business life. Since this time, my interest in commercial business has developed into a marked interest in commercial law, as illustrated by my work experience and post-graduate studies to date; and by my applying to ByrneWallace’s graduate trainee programme today. My degree led me to the position I am in today and I look forward to embarking on my career in commercial law with a team whom share my motivation, ambition and yearn for success.

**Why I would like to train at ByrneWallace and what I would like to achieve**

In gaining work experience in defence litigation within the insurance sector (where I was offered an opportunity to train with the firm) I learnt and have taken a lot from the experience however I am confident that having tried out the small firm approach, I am better suited to a bigger firm with greater resources and where I will be exposed to different types of work. A major factor that attracts me to ByrneWallace is the international client base that ByrneWallace has and the fact that I would be working on some of the most complex transactions within the jurisdiction. The type of clients with whom I will have contact, the amount of that contact and the types of issues confronting those clients will have a significant impact on my job satisfaction. I would like to be involved in forming solutions to corporate legal issues working with international clients and it is a big attraction for me that ByrneWallace offers this opportunity. The level of mentorship I can expect as a trainee is an important factor for me i.e. the amount, quality and type of training that I can expect; and ByrneWallace’s strong focus on learning and development together with its open door policy is very appealing. The opportunity to work in five different practice groups, completing at least one rotation in each of ByrneWallace’s four major practice areas, with the added opportunity to share an office with a partner, are two factors that I highly value. I am aiming to become the best possible commercial lawyer I can be through my traineeship and to achieve that goal, I need to be trained by the best, and the best for me is ByrneWallace as, as per its ethos, ByrneWallace are driven to achieve excellence in everything they do.

**Why the leap to law, and why am I applying to ByrneWallace?**

I decided to pursue a career in law as it is a career that is intellectually challenging and I am attracted to the level of creativity that is involved with handling each individual case. I enjoy problem solving and working in teams: both of which are practical aspects of working in law. I am attracted to the academic rigor of the law and I am drawn to the fast-paced lifestyle, challenge and variety of work that defines the environment at ByrneWallace, making the firm my top choice. In light of the unprecedented events in recent years in Ireland, and with NAMA introducing a significant change in restructuring in Ireland, I would like to train at a law firm that manages high profile restructuring and loan portfolio sales. I am interested in this type of work and the work that comes off it. There are few firms that can offer this opportunity but ByrneWallace does and it places itself as a top firm that does. An additional factor that draws me to ByrneWallace is the firm culture. As I will spend more time at work than I will with my friends and family, it is important to me that I respect my colleague’s judgment, enjoy their company and believe that I can learn and develop into a good solicitor under their tutelage. ByrneWallace advocates its commitment to providing its trainees by stating that they make a point of empowering their trainees to achieve their very best, whilst offering support, training and guidance “to do just that”.

I hope that in your reading of my experience, goals and ambitions I have illustrated to your good selves the motivation and drive that I have to become a trainee at ByrneWallace. I believe it to be the best firm for me, and I to be a suitable candidate for you. Should I be unsuccessful in my application, I hope to secure a place on the internship programme next year so as to demonstrate my capabilities by virtue of same.

I am grateful for your taking the time to review the within application and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Rock