Byrne Wallace Solicitors

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Ronan Finucane

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To whom it may concern,

Following your announcement of solicitor traineeships for the coming period I would like to express my interest in applying for a position on said programme.

My name is Ronan Finucane.  I have completed a Bachelor of Civil Law International in the National University of Ireland, Galway and have attained a Masters in International and Comparative Law from Trinity College Dublin.

I have always been interested in the law and hope to pursue a legal career in the future as a solicitor.  I am eager to develop new skills and gain an insight into the areas of law Byrne Wallace is involved in. The opportunity to work in a commercial law firm would be an extremely exciting prospect and one that I would hugely welcome.  I am very interested in the work Byrne Wallace does in areas such as environmental law and, in this regard, I have a specific interest in judicial review of planning decisions having been exposed to such issues in my current role.

I have now studied law for the past number years in both Ireland and France as well as having obtained substantive work experience in the legal field. I believe the role of trainee would present me with an invaluable opportunity to creatively engage with real world commercial legal issues in a diligent and attentive manner. I further believe this traineeship would be a great way of further understanding how the law operates in practice and how the skills I have attained in an academic and professional setting can be applied to the duties and competencies of a commercial law trainee.  Indeed, five years ago I undertook an Erasmus year in Toulouse, France, where I attended Université de Toulouse Capitole 1 studying law through French.  This has given me a better appreciation of the values of self-reliance and independence as well as greatly improving my French.  Coupled with my results from my final year at NUIG and my Masters degree, I feel I have illustrated a greater maturation over the past number of years.  I believe I would be capable of handling any situations which may arise in this role with more awareness and care and address them with a consistent attitude of hard work.

My past experience has illustrated my suitability for this position.  From being an activities coordinator working with children to working as a judicial assistant and interacting with judges, counsel and interested parties on an ongoing basis, to the numerous sports teams I have played on, I have developed strong communication skills, leadership qualities and integrity.  I have a proven track record of working with and engaging with many different types of people in a professional environment and this has allowed me to develop a conscientious and courteous demeanour that has assisted me in delivering excellent customer/client service.  I think this would greatly benefit me when working at the firm.

Having completed many presentations in French while studying in Toulouse to conducting substantive refugee and subsidiary protection interviews for the State I believe I am a confident and capable communicator. Communicating effectively and being concise strike me as fundamental requirements for this position. However, I also believe this traineeship would also allow me to foster many new skills including further refining my writing and research techniques. This would permit me to supplement what I have already gained from various aspects of working and university life and become far more capable in relation to the core legal skills Byrne Wallace places importance on.

In the autumn after completing my undergraduate studies I was fortunate to be selected to participate in the inaugural Brehon Law Society externship in Philadelphia.  I was the only student selected by NUIG to complete this prestigious internship organised by the Brehons, an organisation of Irish American lawyers and judges in the States.  I worked with a law firm, in the Center City area of Philadelphia, which specialised in advising businesses, not for profits and health care providers.  I gained great insight into American law and was regularly given tasks to complete on a bi-weekly basis ranging from legal research to writing complaints and assisting in drafting investigative reports.

Equally, the primary component of my work for the IPO involved substantive and detailed factual and legal research in relation to a wide array of issues with regard to refugee law, international law and EU law. I was able to enhance my legal techniques as a result of this position, namely the improvement of my ability to write clearly and concisely, to communicate effectively and to operate within a team structure.

I currently work as judicial assistant to the Hon Ms. Justice Máire Whelan in the Court of Appeal. This is a role which I extremely enjoy and has given me the benefit of experiencing, being immersed in, and assisting with the administration of justice. My duties in this role involve the provision of legal research, assisting with the drafting of judgments, analysing submissions, legal arguments and authorities as well as carrying out any administrative tasks the Judge may require. In this regard I have had the great benefit and privilege of getting to work very closely with the Judge on a constant basis which has greatly increased my professional confidence as well as teaching me many new legal techniques and skills. Fundamentally, I feel I have availed of an invaluable opportunity to witness how the Judge critically engages with a substantial legal issue or problem and addresses such issues in a creative, dynamic and conscientious manner. This type of work process, I hope, will inform my approach to issues and situations that may arise when completing this traineeship.

I am motivated, able to work on my own initiative and, certainly, a team player and I would welcome the opportunity to develop my legal skills and gain valuable experience if selected to participate in this traineeship.

I have attached my curriculum vitae for your perusal.  Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Ronan Finucane