

21 October 2016

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Beth Onslow
HR Administrator
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Application for Trainee Solicitor Programme

Dear Ms Onslow,

I am an LLM International and European Business Law student at Trinity College Dublin and a First Class Honours LLB graduate of Maynooth University writing to apply for a place on the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme. I am passionate about pursuing a career as a commercial solicitor and, given ByrneWallace's commercial reputation and international focus, I believe I have a great deal to contribute to the firm.

Since completing an LLB, I worked as a Judicial Intern in the Supreme Court assigned to the Honourable Mr Justice Frank Clarke. My main responsibilities included writing case notes and conducting detailed reviews and analysis of legal written submissions, books of evidence, affidavits as well as applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. Having been impressed by the quality of my work, I was asked to contribute to two Supreme Court judgments, *Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Limited & ors v Quinn & ors* [2016] IESC 50 and *Charles & ors v Minister for Justice and Equality & ors* [2016] IESC 48. The content of my work was commercially focused and involved international commercial disputes, judicial review proceedings, transnational litigation, appeals of decisions of the Financial Services Ombudsman, insolvency proceedings, landmark litigation concerning data protection as well as extradition and immigration law proceedings. I also worked on Ireland's first ever e-court in the Supreme Court, a paperless system using tablet computers for the oral hearings in order to enhance efficiency in handling and sharing documents in court. The internship refined my research, writing and analytical abilities and reaffirmed my commitment to a career as an international commercial solicitor.

My decision to study law was well informed. Following secondary school, I enrolled in a Computer Animation course but I realised that it was not a career I wanted to pursue. I enrolled, therefore, in a Fetac course where I was exposed to and became interested in law. I was accepted into Law at Maynooth University via one of only three places available nationally through Fetac. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I have taken every opportunity to prepare myself for a career as a commercial solicitor and I have excelled in all modules, in particular those with a corporate, international and business focus. I have consistent high academic achievements. I received the highest overall grades in my LLB class in both Second and Third Year and I graduated with the second highest grades overall. Given my passion for a career as a commercial solicitor and excellent academic achievements, I decided to commit to further study in an effort to enhance the skills I gained during my undergraduate degree. I am currently pursuing an LLM in International and European Business Law specialising in a variety of areas, such as EU Financial Services Law and International Trade Law, which align closely to ByrneWallace's practice and will be particularly useful as a trainee and future solicitor.

The international focus of ByrneWallace's Banking and Finance practice is a fundamental reason why I am applying to the firm. Understanding the complexities and implications that face clients against the backdrop of Brexit is essential for the firm's lawyers and trainees. Ireland is in a unique position to capitalise on new business and expand existing companies' operations post-Brexit. This is strengthened by Ireland's traditional foreign direct investment qualities such as its common law jurisdiction, geographic location, corporate tax regime and flexible workforce. Given my keen interest in international business law, my commercial experience in the Supreme Court and the emphasis placed on global trade issues in my LLM studies, I believe I have the skills to contribute

significantly to issues facing the firm's clients. Clients seeking to mitigate the impact of Brexit might face issues that range from passport concerns to trade within the EU, access to capital markets, regulation of securities markets as well as data privacy compliance. Having spoken to some of the firm's representatives the Trinity College Dublin Law Fair I learned valuable information about the firm's culture and training processes. ByrneWallace's commitment to a consistent Corporate Social Responsibility policy, including the Solas Project, particularly stood out to me as something that I would like to take part in. The firm's comprehensive trainee programme further inspired me to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme.

In addition to my academic study, I have played a vibrant role on campus at undergraduate, serving as the Maynooth Law Society Public Relations Officer, a Committee Member for the Sociology Department organising Maynooth's inaugural Politics and Economics Convention and I played for the university's soccer team. I am currently a member of the Dublin University Boxing Club at Trinity College and train weekly in preparation for intervarsity competitions later in the academic year. I am an active member of the TCD LawSoc and I am currently judging the opening rounds of their Junior Mock Trial Competition. Furthermore, I am preparing sports related articles for Trinity's student broadsheet, *The University Times*, which is Ireland's largest student newspaper.

While my academic credentials are strong, I have developed complementary skills in the working environment. My considerable experience working in high-level retail has fostered my dedication to providing the highest quality client service. Understanding clients' needs and innovation are key values at ByrneWallace and I relish the thought of further honing my professional skills and providing excellent service as a member of the team. I enjoy working in a fast-paced commercial environment dealing with clients, deadlines and working collaboratively with my colleagues. I am adaptable, customer service orientated and have developed these transferable skills in my retail job. In my current position as a Sales Adviser at COS, I have been entrusted to train all staff in the menswear department and I have a proven record of surpassing sales targets. I have been commended for my teamwork skills and approachability. I take pride in meeting my goals efficiently while also delivering excellent personal service, which was singled out by the management at my most recent performance review.

The specialist knowledge I have acquired during my LLM studies, the skills gained working in the Supreme Court, my four years at Maynooth University, my dedication to clients, passion for international business law and the strong commitment I have to working as a commercial solicitor make me a strong candidate for the Trainee Solicitor Programme at ByrneWallace. I am excited at the prospect of working at the firm. I have attached a copy of my curriculum vitae and I would very much welcome the chance to further discuss how I could contribute to ByrneWallace as a trainee and future solicitor. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Power