

Trainee Solicitor Programme

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in the trainee solicitor programme. I am currently studying for my FE1 exams while working as a Paralegal at Central Bank of Ireland. I am a law graduate with a keen interest in regulatory and commercial law. During my studies at Waterford Institute of Technology, I enjoyed studying company, insurance and contract law. Commercial law intrigues me, primarily because of the need to understand business as a whole and the need for growth and development in a market whose trends are hard to follow constantly. From scouting sponsorship from local shops to applying for community grants, I have been heavily involved in the business process, and these skills have helped me with daily life.

My understanding of commercial law was further enhanced while I worked as a legal assistant at Byrne Wallace ("BW"). As an employee of the Central Bank of Ireland ("CBI"), I have an understanding of what is required of businesses under the CBI's regulations and how they are supervised. Training in a commercial law firm will allow me to see how these regulations affect businesses and what is required of a commercial firm in complying with these regulations. I will be in a position to leverage off this experience when training with a commercial law firm. The beauty of a commercial firm is that it is a one-stop shop. This provides the firm with the opportunity to create long lasting relationships with clients. BW appeals to me because it is one of Ireland's leading law firms with market leading practices. BW are a forward thinking law firm and are dedicated to the protection and promotion of our clients' interests through the provision of expert legal services.

BW stood out to me because of the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion. As a former employee and from what I have heard, BW is a leader in Diversity and Equality. Being from an African country that has more than 200 tribes, I understand the importance of providing an environment where individuals are treated with respect. It is encouraging to see that the firm has achieved a gender balance amongst its partners. I am also encouraged by the firm's commitment to corporate social responsibility. I have always been eager to support charities, from bag packing at the local shop, to supporting with the "Christmas Shoebox Appeal".

I have outlined below the particular skills, which I think, make me an ideal candidate for the traineeship programme with ByrneWallace:

1. Drive

I am committed to my personal and company goals, and go the extra mile to achieve them. I am not afraid to ask for feedback from colleagues and one's superiors and I actively work out

strategies to improve the weak areas. I am always seeking new ways to deal with difficult situations or setbacks. I set high but realistic goals and develop strategies to meet them even under high pressure.

2. Commercial awareness

I am currently a member of Discovery Gospel Choir. Discovery is Ireland's leading multi-cultural choir. Our membership spans from 14 different nationalities, and we sing in 30 different languages. I was elected as the choir's treasurer in 2019/2020. This role involves applying for community grants, analysing the choir's financial position and advising on the choir's expenditure. During my term as treasurer of Discovery Gospel Choir, I had to identify the risk posed to the Creative Arts Community because of COVID-19. Due to the restrictions, the choir have been unable to perform at events and hold annual concerts, which is the choir's main source of income. I researched the different financial aids available and identified grants, which the choir could potentially apply for. This required a full breakdown of how the funds will be allocated and a business justification. This improved my commercial awareness, as I had to understand the developments in this sector and eliminate a potential long-term risk for the choir.

3. Teamwork

From my first employment to my current paralegal role at CBI, teamwork has been a recurring theme. I appreciate the need for collaboration with colleagues and as well with clients. I have had the opportunity of not only working with colleagues within my firm but also with barristers and clients during my time at BW and with the CBI's decision makers including former High Court and Supreme Court judges.

4. Ambition

I am ambitious and am considered an enthusiastic person. I have the determination to achieve the best results in all endeavors.

I am particularly interested in ByrneWallace due to its commitment to the success of its trainees through professional learning and development. BW provides trainees the opportunity to advise market-leading domestic and international clients. Another aspect of the traineeship that stood out to me is the opportunity to gain direct, hands-on experience working on client cases, under appropriate supervision and guidance. It would be a great opportunity to train with a firm that is recognised as the "Top Legal Adviser to Public Sector" its commitment to providing clients with the best results. I also believe that BW's values align with my values and consequently, I chose to apply to you.

I look forward to hearing from you and can be contacted anytime on my mobile (086) 8835174.

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Yours sincerely,
Ruth Amoo