

Re: Application for the Traineeship at ByrneWallace LLP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a prospective solicitor and currently working in the Oversight Department with Carne Group while completing my final FE1 examination. Gaining a diverse education that encompasses law, finance and accounting has given me a wide breadth of knowledge on a number of subjects, which I believe makes me a suitable candidate for a Traineeship at ByrneWallace.

I am applying for the position in ByrneWallace as I believe it would be a great opportunity to qualify as a solicitor in a firm which strives for excellence. I see this as the perfect foundation to begin my career within the legal industry. The opportunity to learn from experienced professionals in a firm which values all of its employees in a collaborative environment is a prospect that excites me greatly. The modesty instilled into ByrneWallace employees is another aspect of the firm that I am incredibly fond of, which I gathered from speaking with Philip O’Leary, who completed his traineeship at the firm. Possessing the practice areas of Employment and Property/Real Estate, which are highly ranked by the Legal 500, and conducting high calibre deals, including advising Ballymore Group on their forward funding deal through harsh circumstances with uncertainties in the construction industry due to Government restrictions, makes a Traineeship at ByrneWallace a highly sought after opportunity as these show the commitment and determination of the firm, which I desire to be a part of.

The collaborative and problem-solving nature of law is what attracted me to the profession initially, as I found great enjoyment in assisting in the resolution of client problems during my time at Eversheds Sutherland. What convinced me to pursue a career in law was the diversity of interesting and complex issues which are dealt with in full service law firms such as ByrneWallace. I have discovered this through the completion of legal exams through my degree and the FE1 examinations as well as during my time at Eversheds Sutherland. The possibility of working with large clients on big transactions excites me and has motivated me to secure a Traineeship with ByrneWallace.

Completing an eleven-week legal internship in 2019 with Eversheds Sutherland gave me my first insight into the legal industry. Working in the Corporate Department, I was graced with the opportunity to draft board minutes and legal memorandums on a variety of areas encompassing powers of attorney and mergers, which gave me experience in legal drafting and researching in a professional environment. Resolving client queries was a highlight of my internship as it taught me problem-solving and entrepreneurial skills from a real-world perspective. Throughout the internship, I was praised for my enthusiasm and my willingness to seek feedback, which is a compliment that I hold highly.

During my time at Carne Group, I have been given great responsibility managing the oversight for three funds which consists of completing Board Reports, Meeting Minutes, communicating with clients and ensuring fund compliance with regulatory authorities. Being exposed to such responsibility has enhanced my project management, communication, and drafting skills, which I believe are transferrable to a career in law. Once again, I really enjoy

the client resolution aspect of my role as I feel great job satisfaction from this, and I believe the learnings which I have taken from this will benefit me in my future legal career.

A noteworthy extra-curricular achievement of mine is representing Ireland at the 2019 Touch Rugby World Cup in Malaysia. I participated in the tournament during the final year of my undergraduate degree, which required adequate preparation for both the tournament and my final year examinations. Competing in a prestigious tournament in a unique location makes this experiences extremely memorable and has encouraged me to work harder in order to represent my country again. We have developed as a squad throughout Covid-19 restrictions and displayed our improvements by coming second in the Autumn Nations Series in September, where we narrowly lost to England. I am excited to see what we can achieve as a team, given the current trajectory of the squad.

Please find my CV along with this cover letter in fulfilment of my application for the Traineeship position with ByrneWallace LLP. I am available for an interview at your convenience.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Seán Ballance