

Sean Smith
53 The Oak
Parkview
Bellarmine
Sandyford
D18

19 October 2018

To: Manager of the Trainee Programme

I am applying to Byrne Wallace because my skills and ambition align with the firm's values. I would like to convince you why I am a fitting candidate for a traineeship.

I have the skills and potential necessary for legal practice. Firstly, I am a patient and precise researcher. This is relevant because legal work is grounded in solid fact-gathering and my multi-faceted experience in research equips me for hard work in different legal areas. Further, I can effectively communicate arguments orally and in writing, as evidenced by my Ph.D. success and publications. Analysis of facts and delivery of solid arguments is fundamental to legal argumentation and I am ready for these tasks. Thirdly, I have an established record in bringing projects to successful conclusion, on time and within budget. Delivering results to clients is essential to Byrne Wallace's corporate success, and doubtless one of the reasons the company received Excellence in Client Service awards in 2017 and 2018. I will maintain that standard.

I am currently proving how my intellectual ability transfers into legal studies. In my first year of the graduate Diploma in Law at the Law Society of Ireland, I achieved consistently high results. My overall average grade was 71% across four subjects (Property, Constitutional, Company and Criminal). In Constitutional law, I achieved the top mark for the module (75%). I have also just sat these four subjects in the FE1 examinations and intend sitting the remaining four in March 2019. I have accomplished all of this while working full-time in my day job.

During the last year I have gained significant business experience with a Dublin firm of cost and contract consultants. For example, I have managed the company's expert witness submissions on a \$3 billion-dollar Canadian class action suit in the mining sector. I have managed successful team bids for large construction and consultancy services. This has included successful business development by winning tenders for county councils, daa plc, the Office of Public Works, and an international pharmaceutical giant. Upon award, I liaise with clients, organise meetings and prepare progress reports. I emphasize this experience because it underscores that I have practical business skills that will contribute to maintaining Byrne Wallace's reputation for innovative, efficient and effective service.

I would also bring valuable non-legal skills to the practice of law. For example, my Ph.D. in history has strengthened my capacity for innovative and analytical judgement, as well as broadening my knowledge perspectives. I strongly feel that this broader background makes for more enriched legal thinking. In addition, my undergraduate studies in European Studies have equipped me with uncommonly broad language skills. I spent my Erasmus year at the prestigious Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po) and I have near-native fluency in French. I am also fluent in Spanish, with advanced reading and speaking skills in Portuguese and Italian. These skills would be highly applicable in a law firm that may be looking outward for new clients post-Brexit.

Finally, I have chosen Byrne Wallace because of its strength in certain fields. For a start, its services in the Projects and Infrastructure sector sit well with my recent business experience. I have spent the last year working for a firm with a strong record of delivering consultancy services on national and international infrastructure projects (Rail, Gas, Water, Roads as well as projects for the Office of Public Works). Through my tendering responsibilities I have also become familiar with public procurement best practices and procedures, and EU procurement regulations. I would be especially interested in gaining experience with the company's team in this area.

Byrne Wallace's impressive record of corporate social responsibility is also encouraging. I would be eager to work for a company with a strong ethos of community service programmes. Finally, because of my background in European studies and my language skills, I find Byrne Wallace's stated commitment to fostering international partnerships and global client networks very appealing. The company would be an ideal place to start a legal career.

I look forward to your response and remain available to discuss my CV further.

Yours faithfully,



S. Smith