Byrne Wallace Solicitors Ballyweelin 88 Harcourt St, Rosses Point Saint Kevin's Co Sligo
Dublin 4 16/10/2018

Dear Ms Onslow

I am writing to you to apply for the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace Solicitors, as advertised on the firm website. I have attached a copy of my CV herewith, which should provide a good analysis of my Education and Professional track record, however, should anything else be required, such as exam results etc. please let me know, and I will be happy to provide it.

By way of short introduction, I am 23 years old, originally from Rosses Point, County Sligo. During the course of my studies to date, I have completed the BCL Law Degree at NUI Galway, and the MSc International Law and Business at UCD Smurfit Business School for which I have attained 2.1 honours degrees in both. I am now in the process of undertaking the FE-1 examinations to gain entrance to Blackhall Place. I have to date, passed 4 subjects, and I have just sat the remaining 4 in the October 2018 sitting. While I like to think that I can hold a conversation on most topics, my main interest away from work is Sport. An avid follower of most sports, I do not play as much as I once would of, in part due to balancing work and study. The exception to this is Golf, which I try to play or practice about as often as I can.

Law is the only career that I have ever given real consideration. While having a family background in the law undoubtedly played a large part in this, there are many other factors.

I am drawn to the adversarial and competitive nature of the job, which is seldom found in any profession, yet is omnipresent in law. I also like the diversity of law. While some jobs become increasingly repetitive, a lawyer enjoys a huge variety of tasks on any given day. I also believe that I am well suited to the profession. I am competitive, analytical and driven, and take genuine satisfaction from completing a difficult task.

My time working the legal industry has only served to strengthen this ambition. I have been lucky to be exposed to a diverse range of situations, including professional misconduct tribunals, tax appeals and insolvency proceedings. I have also sat in many client consultations in both litigation and commercial matters. I have enjoyed each challenge and am proud of the contributions that I have been able to make, and have come away from each experience with a greater ambition to succeed in law.

I am applying to Byrne Wallace specifically for a number of reasons. The firm operates in a vast array of different sectors which provides the opportunity to undertake rotations in different departments and gain a wealth of experience to take forward into ones career. In particular, I would relish the opportunity to undertake a rotation in the Banking and Finance or the Venture Capital/Private Equity Departments. I have always had an interest in finance and how the money machine works. Having studied in UCD Smurfit and worked for Citibank, I have enhanced my knowledge and experience in this field over the last number of years, and would embrace the opportunity to continue this development during my traineeship. Similarly, during my Master’s degree, I enjoyed studying International Commercial Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, and a rotation in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department would further develop my interest in this regard.

Another reason for applying is the unique character of this firm. In an industry where each of the commercial firms tries to market themselves as ‘different’, Byrne Wallace Solicitors really does stand out. The basis for this assessment is the impression that I have gotten from representatives from the firm at various careers events through the years, as well as the brief interactions I have had with the firm while working in the industry. This impressions was confirmed when, having asked senior colleagues about the firms to which I am applying, their response to Byrne Wallace stood apart from the other entities. In particular, they praised the culture of the firm, the professionalism of it’s representatives, and the training that young solicitors receive. Further evidence of this is the recent news that the firm has achieved gender balance in partnership, an outlier in this regard. This is testament to the firm’s values, the collective drive for progression and the culture of evolvement.

Accordingly, I believe a place on the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace Solicitors would represent an excellent foundation for my career in law, and an opportunity to work for one of the top law firms in Ireland.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Sean Creed