

Seán Farrell Cover Letter

As a graduate of English, coming from the marketing sector, I've taken a circuitous route to enter the world of law. However, working to solve clients' strategic problems in small and large agencies, with clients ranging from global technology and drinks giants (IBM & Diageo), to large Irish semi-states (Bus Éireann), over three years in the advertising sector I've gained a strong strategic skillset, and indeed, the sharp nose for business that is mandatory in prospective solicitors today.

Having been given the chance to work on the Ashurst LLP account in my time at Ogilvy, I found myself becoming more and more interested in the sector, with the intellectual challenges I encountered while working for Ashurst awakening a dormant interest I had always had in a career in the law.

I've followed this interest through to tangible action, sitting, and passing my first four FE1s this Spring. Indeed, I received the Gold Medal in Criminal Law from City Colleges (where I had attended lectures prior to sitting), for the highest score in the Criminal Spring sitting, receiving 72% in my examination. My success with these examinations confirmed that a career as a solicitor was not just something I was capable of achieving, but a profession where I could thrive - my strong academic scores a testament to an intuitive comfort with the subjects I studied.

In addition, following my exams, I interned in a busy general practice in Dublin, Barron Morris. Here, I was predominantly focussed on Family and Criminal law (along with a less developed exposure to Probate and Conveyancing). While there I worked very closely with a recently qualified solicitor, managing the Legal Aid caseload of the office. This was very much a baptism of fire, the large workload, and lean staffing ensuring that I received a fantastic exposure to the inner workings of both a busy general practice, and the Courts system.

Since finishing I have sat my final set of FE1 exams in October, and have turned my focus to the next step in my legal career. It is predominantly for the intellectual challenge that a career as a solicitor appeals to me, and in particular, a career with Byrne Wallace. With its reputation for forming solicitors who are highly intelligent problem solvers, and problem solvers with a distinct focus on the law itself, it's the perfect place for anyone in the embryonic phase of their law career, particularly the exposure afforded by the Byrne Wallace traineeship.

Throughout four years of study in Trinity College I consistently demonstrated my strong academic ability, graduating with a first class honours degree in English Studies. In my years of study there I was exposed to vast and complex texts, and expected to place them within their larger philosophical and historical context before expressing their meaning with precision and clarity, developing a theoretical and analytical framework not dissimilar to that developed by undergraduate students of the law.

University also allowed me to engage with people with vastly differing intellectual perspectives through my involvement with a number of different societies focused on the charity sector, predominantly Suas Trinity, and the Vincent De Paul society. I was also fortunate enough to be chosen to participate in Suas' volunteer programme in 2011, working with educational development charities in Calcutta for three months, and managed Suas' homework clubs, and Refugee Football programme in my final two years of study. I've continued to stoke this community involvement since graduation, working with a number of national policy groups in the Green Party, along with some consultative work for Pavee Point in Dublin.

Ultimately, over 27 years, I've accrued a wealth of personal, professional and intellectual experience that's provided me with a unique professional perspective. When coupled with my strong academic ability, and my determination to succeed as a solicitor, I feel that the value I would derive from working with Byrne Wallace, would be more than returned in full to you.