

Sean Hinds

Quarry House, Spur Hill, Cork

28th of October 2020

Byrne Wallace,
88 Harcourt St,
Saint Kevin's,
Dublin

Dear Ciara Loftus,

My name is Sean Hinds and I would like to apply for your training contract with Byrne Wallace.

I have recently graduated with a first-class honours degree in Law and French at University College Cork. I became interested in Byrne Wallace after discussing it with Mary McCarthy who works in the career services department at University College Cork. After this introduction and further research, I soon found myself sincerely admiring your firm. Byrne Wallace possesses deep expertise in employment law. It has also attained the Lexcel quality mark for excellence in areas such as client care. And most importantly to me, your emphasis on collaboration and personal development in the trainee programme is heard of on campus. I strongly believe I have the qualifications and experience that can meet the requirements of this challenging role.

To begin with, my time working as chairperson of the UCC French society has brought me much experience. It involved negotiating with hotels, acting as spokesperson at all events and meetings and listening to colleague's contributions - all of which have enabled me to become a team player and an excellent communicator. I believe I am well suited to transactional practice and Byrne Wallace's focus on teamwork.

Secondly, my Erasmus in Strasbourg has given me qualities I believe are strong work assets. My time spent, developing fluency in the French language, and learning about international law and the French legal system has made me both competent and flexible. Living in a different country and adapting to a new way of doing things enabled me to improve academically and grow as a person. Therefore, Byrne Wallace's educational culture, their rigorous trainee programme, and the commitment it demands, all align to my goal of becoming an expert and a versatile professional advisor.

Thirdly, I believe I have acquired the client awareness skills required for this position during my internship at Frank Buttimer's criminal law firm. After observing colleagues speak with clients and deal with their specific problems, I gained a strong sense of how to manage client expectations in a sector where people's livelihoods were at stake. I learned the value of understanding a client's unique circumstances and delivering advice in a down-to-earth and efficient manner. Consequently, I am confident I can adopt Byrne Wallace's strong customer service ethic and focus on concise communication. For me, the opportunity of learning how to build strong client relationships in a law firm with an internationally certified quality mark is an opportunity that I have always been working towards.

In addition, I am completely drawn in by the fact Byrne Wallace is one of the leading full-service law firms in Ireland with deep sectoral expertise. Byrne Wallace is a national leader in employment law and I know it has particular expertise in pension law. Furthermore, I am of course aware that Byrne Wallace was awarded Litigation Case of the Year for advising on the landmark case *Hogan & others v The Minister for Social and Family Affairs*. This complex case illustrated Byrne Wallace's seamless communication across sectors such as restructuring and insolvency, employment, and litigation – all of which enabled them to succeed. It is a case that intrigued me because of my extensive studies of European Union law in Strasbourg. Furthermore, in France I collaborated with impressive students to research domestic legislation in various languages as part of a capstone project and this cross-discipline co-operation was something I truly enjoyed.

In summary, I believe there is a shared perspective between Byrne Wallace and myself as an applicant. This is what encouraged me to apply for this genuinely incredible opportunity. We both clearly share a desire to push the boundaries of employment law, team collaboration and excellent client service. I would love an opportunity to pursue these shared interests.

Yours Sincerely,

Sean Hinds

