

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing today to express my substantial interest in the Trainee Solicitor Programme at Byrne-Wallace. Having recently completed my undergraduate degree in Civil Law at NUI Galway, I am relishing the prospect of moving into the legal profession. I am incredibly excited at the thought of taking the knowledge and skills that I have learned and developed over the course of my education and my previous legal work experience, to the next level. It is my hope to secure a traineeship with a firm that matches my interests, personality and my ambition. I strongly believe that the ethos of hard work and excellence in application, which has set Byrne-Wallace out as one of the countries leading law firms, matches precisely my motivation to succeed.

Throughout the Summer of 2018, I was fortunate enough to secure a hugely valuable internship with one of Chicago's leading Law firms. The opportunity to work with, 'Healy-Scanlon Attorneys' has not only allowed me to develop my personal growth, research skills and my analytic ability, but it allowed me to witness first hand, the dedication and passion required to be successful at the top level of the legal profession. I was extremely fortunate to work with some of Illinois' most decorated and successful attorneys. The vibrant nature of the City added to the excitement of experiencing the legal climate in the United States, however it is the guidance I received while operating in such a fast paced environment which I believe will stand to me most as I move forward in my career. I was given considerable responsibility throughout my time with the firm, and the encouragement and support I was offered while working at this level has ensured I have a drive and determination to succeed in what I regard as a totally compelling industry.

Prior to working in the United States, throughout the final semester of my undergraduate degree, I was fortunate enough to secure a place on NUI Galway's much coveted clinical placement programme. The programme allowed me to spend a number of days each week working as a legal researcher with Michael Houlihan Solicitors, of Ennis, Co.Clare. The programme proved to be of huge benefit to me. I was given substantial responsibilities and gained the opportunity to implement much of the theoretical knowledge I had obtained throughout my time at University, in real life cases and scenarios. The programme demonstrated clearly, my suitability to flourish in the legal profession. Having worked alongside accomplished senior partners at the firm, I gained a genuine appreciation of the demanding nature of a solicitors work and the countless challenges which they face on a daily basis. The experience also demonstrated my ability to work independently, on my own initiative, and to achieve high quality results. My time in Ennis left me with a resounding desire to continue my career development by securing a traineeship with a firm which can enhance and develop the qualities which ensured I had such a positive experience throughout my placement. The reputation and commitment to excellence of Byrne-Wallace leaves no doubt in my mind that the Trainee solicitor programme you offer, would prove a perfect fit for the ambitions, qualities and standards I have alluded to and demonstrated.

Upon my graduation from Glenstal Abbey, in 2015, I was awarded for my efforts to demonstrate the core values of the school through everyday encounters. The value of contact and the development of personal relationships are crucial components to ensuring a culture of integrity, humility and enjoyment is apparent. These are values which I attempt to live by daily, and nurture in all facets of my life. Through my role as a coach of various underage GAA teams at 'Fr.Griffiths Éire Óg GAA', I ensure these values become central aspects to the lives of those under my guidance. While hard work is naturally a driving force behind success, I do believe that pride in ones work goes a long way towards success, and harbours further ambition within the individual. This is a message I attempt to convey to my students who I tutor for Irish at leaving Cert Level and it is a message which resonates strongly in both them and I. Having studied the values which make Byrne-Wallace such a

renowned practice, and considering my ability to adopt and appreciate the culture of the establishment, I believe my personality is most well suited to what the trainee programme offers.

I am hugely proud to have achieved an honours degree in Civil Law as well as a Diploma in the Irish language during my first three years at University. While it was unquestionably a challenge to balance both courses and the considerable workload which both courses posed, through immersing myself in the materials and learning to balance the various elements of each, I allowed myself to flourish and truly enjoy the challenges of both. I believe that a balanced lifestyle is a crucial factor in becoming an effective worker and achieving success. The benefits of sport have been apparent to me from early in my life and I have, and continue to use sport as a tool to develop my life skills. Having played sport from an early age, the importance of hard work and team unity are embedded into my psyche. Being awarded NUI Galway Rugby Club Under 20's player of the year in 2016 along with Ballymore Eustace GAA's Senior Footballer of the year in the same season, were personal accolades I am extremely proud of and were the result of true commitment and perseverance. I continue to enjoy all sports at all levels and currently play rugby with AIL club Galwegians. I hope to have continued success on the this front, but I have no doubts that the traits which lead to success on the sporting fields are closely intertwined with the traits which lead to a successful workplace. I am under no illusion that I can successfully translate the skills and values which sport has etched in me into a traineeship and in my legal career going forward.

While the qualities and high standards which I have demonstrated and developed throughout my academic, sporting and day to day life are unquestionably helpful tools in moving towards a career in law, my desire to continue the development and enhancement of the skills which will lead to a successful career are unwavering. I am currently beginning a one year masters in Public Law at NUI Galway. It is my hope that this course will enhance my knowledge of what I regard as a fascinating area of law and further develop my critical thinking, research and presentation skills. I believe this course will allow me to nurture the ambition and genuine passion I have for the Law while allowing me to study a diverse and interesting range of modules. An area that particularly appeals to me, is that of public litigation. While I have been fortunate enough to work in this area through my previous work experience, it is an area which particularly appeals to me. However, it is the broad variety of subject matter which I will be studying which most excites me, as my interest and passion in the law, spans a large and diverse array of particular subject areas, including personal injury law, dispute resolution and administrative law. I am certain that my studies throughout the year will improve many of the skills which will be central to the trainee programme offered at Byrne-Wallace.

At present I am approaching my first round of FE1 exams, where I will sit four subjects. It is my hope to complete all eight by the March sittings in 2019. I am under no illusions as to how challenging the process of both my LLM and FE1 studies will be, but both are challenges I am more than certain my drive and determination will see me come through with an even greater skill set to operate at the top level of the legal profession. I desire a traineeship of a very high quality and I am certain that Byrne-Wallace is unrivalled in this regard. I must offer much gratitude for taking the time to read and consider my application. I truly hope that I have given an appropriate reflection of my character and my suitability for the trainee solicitor programme at Byrne-Wallace. I look forward to hearing back from your firm in due course.

Kind Regards,

Seán O'Sullivan

