

Seán Smith  
53 The Oak  
Parkview  
Bellarmine  
Sandyford  
D18

5 February 2019

**Re: Application for Internship**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am applying for an internship with Byrne Wallace because I possess the right blend of skills and ambition necessary for successful legal practice.

Firstly, I am a precise researcher and organizer. This is relevant because legal work is grounded in solid fact-gathering and my multi-faceted experience in research equips me for hard work across different legal areas. Further, I can effectively communicate oral and written arguments, as evidenced by my Ph.D. success and teaching experience. 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 complex research projects in diverse areas to successful conclusion. Delivering results to clients with different needs is essential to a legal firm's success and 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 (which I will obtain in June 2019), 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%). Since I last applied to Byrne Wallace for the traineeship programme, I passed all four of these subjects in the FE1 examinations (see results below) and intend on sitting the remaining four in 2019. I have accomplished all of this while working full-time in my day job.

Over the last year and a half, I have gained significant business experience with a Dublin firm of cost and contract consultants. For example, I have assisted with the company's expert witness submissions on a \$3 billion-dollar Canadian class action suit in the mining sector. I have written successful team bids for large construction and consultancy services. This has involved meeting tight deadlines and winning tenders from county councils, daa plc, the Office of Public Works, and an international pharmaceutical giant. Upon award, I liaise with clients, set up meetings and type progress reports. Finally, I help with company finances and prepare monthly invoices. I emphasize this experience because it underscores that I have practical business skills and commercial awareness that would be beneficial to a law firm.

I would also bring valuable non-legal skills to the practice of law. 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, achieving the highest mark at Trinity College when I was an undergraduate. I am also fluent in Spanish, with advanced reading and speaking skills in Portuguese and Italian. These skills would be highly applicable in a firm that may be looking further afield for clients.

In sum, I would bring a useful set of professional and personal skills to the legal profession. By the end of 2019, I anticipate having successfully achieved all my FE1s. With these future goals in mind, an internship with Byrne Wallace would provide the best gateway to my new career for a number of reasons. In the first place, this position would provide the best opportunity to experience the breadth of legal practice in a law firm with a diverse client base. Further, while I have enjoyed legal studies immensely, I find the practical application of law to real-world clients far more satisfying. Consequently, the chance to be involved in legal cases during the internship and bring my skills to your firm's caseload would be very rewarding.

If given an interview, I would like to demonstrate that I can hit the ground running in a law firm. In comparison to other graduates, I have already-proven abilities in researching, writing and public speaking that distinguish me. My Diploma and FE1 results showcase my adeptness at legal thinking. This means that, in many areas, a firm will not have to babysit me and will ultimately save resources in my training. That said, because of my background in education I am always open-minded and eager to learn new skills and knowledge.

Many thanks in advance for considering this application.

Yours faithfully,

S. Smith

**FE1 RESULTS OCTOBER 2018**

COMPANY LAW - 64

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW - 66

CRIMINAL LAW - 65

THE LAW OF PROPERTY - 64