

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for a training contract in Byrne Wallace as part of the 2022 intake. I am currently working in the funds industry whilst sitting my FE-1 exams, of which I have passed five to date.

As outlined in my CV, I am currently working as an Associate in the Investor Operations department of MUFG Investor Services. I started in this role at the beginning of September, having previously worked as a paralegal on the Legal Projects Management Team in A&L Goodbody Solicitors until contract renewals were temporarily suspended due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has given me the opportunity to diversify my skillset. I feel that my professional background working in both the finance and corporate law sectors, my academic background and my genuine interest in the firm's broad range of practice areas make me an ideal candidate for a training contract with Byrne Wallace.

As part of my academic studies and professional experience, I have been exposed to a wide array of legal areas. Between undergraduate (LL.B.) and postgraduate (LL.M.) courses, I completed modules in Mergers and Acquisition, Data Protection Law, Child Law, Employment Law, Environmental Law, IT Law, Company Law and Property Law to name but a few. During my time at A&L Goodbody, I worked on significant volumes of property transactions at various stages. These experiences both academically and professionally have nurtured a genuine interest in these areas of law, robustly compatible with Byrne Wallace's impressive breadth of practice. More broadly, from work with A&L Goodbody and MUFG Investor Services, I am experienced and comfortable in a corporate work environment, which would smooth my transition onto the Byrne Wallace team.

I am confident that Byrne Wallace is the ideal firm in which to pursue my training contract. From researching the firm and trainee programme, following the cases and projects that the firm has been involved in over the years and attending the trainee insights zoom session I have formed the opinion that Byrne Wallace is the perfect firm for me to develop, thrive and succeed as a trainee (and ultimately qualified) solicitor. Something that really stuck with me in the insights zoom session was when Feargal Brennan highlighted that culture is a fundamental part of what a firm stands for and that decency sums up the culture in Byrne Wallace. Decency is a fundamental characteristic that I live by and the fact that it is so important to Byrne Wallace is crucial to my decision to want to train there. The importance placed on this by all the speakers in the session highlighted to me that it wasn't a case of simply paying lip service to this buzzword but that it was applied everyday and across the board in Byrne Wallace. Feargal Brennan also said that in Byrne Wallace they don't simply teach the law to trainees but instil the value of honour and honesty in them. I believe this outlook sets the Byrne Wallace traineeship apart from the other leading law firms.

I sincerely hope that the above merit my consideration for admission to a training contract with Byrne Wallace. I would be more than happy to answer any follow-up questions.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,
Shane Richardson

