

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to apply for a traineeship at Byrne Wallace with a view of commencing PPC1 in September 2019. I am a BCL and LLM graduate from University College Cork and have recently completed all eight FE-1 exams. I have over three years' experience working as a legal intern and I am currently living and working as a paralegal at a top 45 UK law firm in London.

I would always describe myself as a driven and motivated person, and I have never considered a career in law other than in a corporate law firm. I do not want to settle for a career that I will not find challenging and where my day to day work will not be varied. As Ireland's consistent top employer, it is undeniable that Byrne Wallace is the obvious choice of firm for me. That said, I am also impressed by Byrne Wallace's reputation for comprehensively training its trainees, while giving them serious responsibilities. This kind of work-oriented approach to training certainly appeals to me, as I am glad of any opportunity to work as a useful part of a team, while being shown how to improve my ability to contribute.

I recently moved to London where I work in the clinical negligence team as a paralegal and as a result have gained a great insight and exposure into a busy city law firm experience. I have an incredible work ethic, and can maintain it for prolonged periods of time. I handle my own files and have the responsibility of drafting letters of advice on contentious clinical negligence claims and issues. I am often required to attend court where I file witness summons, consent issues and attend listing and settlement hearings. This experience has been invaluable in gaining exposure into the litigation process and also has significantly boosted my confidence by working in a fast-paced and commercial environment. I thrive off working to challenging deadlines, and enjoy having to problem solve under pressure in a collaborative team environment. Moreover, I feel that my time management skills have greatly improved, as there were times when I was given work from different people, and I had to decide what to prioritise and get everything done for whenever it was required.

I am confident that I have the intellectual ability for a fruitful career at Byrne Wallace. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I consistently received a 2.1 each year and graduated 7th in my class overall. I have a Master's degree in Medical and Child law from University College Cork and received 65% for my thesis on Advance Healthcare Directives. The skills that I display in the greatest abundance are my people and communication skills. As Deputy-Editor of Cork Online Law Review at UCC, I was responsible for organising workshops to ensure all the students elected understood the editorial process we were using. These workshops required a significant amount of work, but also meant developing my communication skills such that I could confidently and succinctly explain the editorial process of a law review to a room of my peers.

I am a very friendly and outgoing person and I look forward to beginning a new career as a trainee in Dublin next year. My natural ability to build up a rapport with someone quickly and thereafter maintain the relationships is something I know that I would utilise daily in a future career as a lawyer.

Please find enclosed my CV. I would, of course, be more than happy to answer any questions you should have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sinéad Harrington