

ByrneWallace
88 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2, D02 DK18

30 October 2020

Re: Application for the Trainee Solicitor Programme

Dear Sirs

I am writing to express my interest in applying for the Trainee Solicitor Programme. I have built my career on hard work, straight forward communication and fostering of relationships. My personal story is one of bravery, dedication and integrity, where I have sought to consistently apply myself with excellence and which further aligns me with the standards exhibited by ByrneWallace.

Working in international, fast paced organisations, I developed a range of transferrable skills which I believe would help me in undertaking a traineeship with the firm. In the past I have been required to travel, balance priorities and demands of a heavy workload whilst consistently displaying high level of flexibility to meet business needs. Management of complex regulatory projects, such as the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation, allowed me to master cross-level, stakeholder management and communication skills.

I advocate diversity and attend the Insurance Ireland Diversity and Inclusion Committee on behalf of CNP Santander Insurance. I have been impressed by the work done in this sphere by ByrneWallace in achieving gender parity at partner level to date which is a progressive achievement. I believe that everyone should be treated with openness and respect and I champion these values in my organisation. I am also fascinated by how big data, and the interplay with privacy concerns and technology will shape our future. I have a genuine interest in getting to know my colleagues and chaired work sports and social committees in the past.

I believe that working in a cross-border, commercial environment has given me a unique perspective and understanding of different types of corporate law. As a Data Protection Officer and a Compliance Manager, I regularly interpret regulatory requirements, procure legal advice and engage with internal and external lawyers to analyse business impact. I have a practical knowledge and experience of how to interpret and implement legal advice and how the letter of the law is risk assessed against commercial outcomes. I recognise that a client focused and efficient approach are the hallmarks to top legal advice.

My experience collaborating with both operational and legal teams would bring a huge value to my transition into the legal profession providing me with rounded experience that can be further developed. Exposure to challenges faced by solicitors, assured me that a career focused on intellectual challenge and analytical ability is the path I want to pursue long-term.

I trust that my practical, hands on experience sets me apart from other candidates. I understand that taking on aspiring solicitors represents a significant time and financial commitment and I would be delighted to attend for an interview to discuss my journey to date in more detail and to further highlight why I am the right fit for ByrneWallace.

Yours faithfully

Sonia Wielinska