

Catherine Guy, Managing Partner
ByrneWallace, 88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, DO2 DK18
Via Online Submission
20th October 2017

Reference: Trainee Solicitor 2018

Dear Ms. Guy,

My name is Tara O'Donoghue and I am a Compliance and Policy Assistant within TTM Group, Dublin since July 2017. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in 2007 and a postgraduate degree in Law (LLB) in 2008, both obtained from NUI Galway. I have also completed a Masters in Law (LLM) in 2010 from University College Cork. In October 2016 and March 2017, I passed all 8 FE1 examinations and I am also a recipient of a Law Society of Ireland Scholarship which I was awarded earlier this year. I have 18 months recent experience as a Legal Assistant within both the Defence Litigation unit and Commercial Law unit in Holmes O'Malley Sexton Solicitors from February 2016 to July 2017. I am applying for a Trainee Solicitor post with ByrneWallace Solicitors as the values I seek in an organisation are all held by your firm.

Whereas other law firms describe themselves as client focused, committed to excellence and innovative, your receipt of the Chambers Europe Ireland Client Service Award 2017 and Irish Law Awards Excellence in Client Service Award 2017 is evident of the value at which you place upon each client. Having extensive experience in liaising with a wide range of clients locally, regionally and internationally for over three years, I have billed over €143,000 with TTM Group and have consistently met and exceeded each target given to me. I am very confident in my ability to reach all targets due to my commitment, technical ability and also in my objective review of my own work. In addition, I have also contributed to a wide variety of files and liaised with high profile clients during my time as a legal intern with Holmes O'Malley Sexton Solicitors.

The emphasis which ByrneWallace puts on the diversity of expertise and embracement of technology is of great interest to me as it is evidence of the commitment and direction which you are taking your firm. The opportunity to learn firsthand from a firm with 39 Partners, each of whom are experts in their field and have nationally recognised solicitors working within their teams, is one of the core reasons for my choosing to apply for this traineeship. Having worked in close partnership with a wide variety of clients within Ireland, Europe and Internationally, I have firsthand experience and extensive knowledge of the importance of training under and working alongside focused and driven individuals. Upon joining TTM Group, I was trained for six months by an award winning recruitment consultant, who has left a lasting and positive impression on how I approach and carry out my work. In addition, during my time as a Legal Assistant in various units, I was given the opportunity to gain guidance and supervision from Associate Solicitors, Partners and also the Managing Partner of the firm, which afforded me excellent experience and technical skills.

Furthermore, I am also aware from meeting you at Law Fairs, that ByrneWallace solicitors are deeply committed to the legal profession. I believe my genuine interest in the legal sector is evidenced by both my decision to return to the legal sector a number of years after graduating, despite having secure a permanent position in a company with who I thoroughly respected and also through completion of all 8 FE1 examinations in October 2016 and March 2017 during my internship period. As further evidence of my commitment to the law, in early October I assisted in the hosting of a breakfast seminar with guest speakers from leading law firms and consultants in relation to the anticipated impact of the General Data Protection Regulation of May 2018 on the healthcare sector.

Finally, and as you will see from my **attached** cv, I am also passionate about volunteer work and I have been an extremely active member of the community in recent years. The emphasis which ByrneWallace puts on Corporate Social Responsibility is one which has further strengthened my

interest in obtaining a traineeship with you. Most recently, I was very pleased to have been nominated as one of five members of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee in my current role and I have also recently been chosen to represent the TTM Group Dublin Sports and Social Committee as Lead Chairperson. Having decided to interlink both of these duties with my interest in fundraising and to increase the reputation of my current employer, I am now the sole co-ordinator of CSR activities within the Dublin Branch of TTM Group. Separately, I am actively involved in watersport activities, tennis, tag rugby and regularly participate in 5k, 10k and 20k corporate FitBit Challenges.

Having had the pleasure of meeting with ByrneWallace trainee solicitors at previous Law Fairs, I would be delighted to be considered for this Trainee Solicitor 2018 vacancy and welcome the opportunity to further discuss my most recent experience in greater detail with you and your colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

Tara O'Donoghue