

# TONY MCBRIEN

m: 0879740717

e: [mcbrienanthony@gmail.com](mailto:mcbrienanthony@gmail.com)

address: 35 Saint Albans Road, Dublin 8

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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing today to apply for the Trainee Programme 2025 at ByrneWallace LLP.

I am a law diploma graduate and passed all eight FE-1s on the first attempt, achieving strong results. My educational background illustrates my commitment to continuous development and my experience demonstrates adaptability. I always wanted to be a lawyer but had an unusual path.

After University I had to decide between pursuing law or education. I chose a career in education as I'm passionate about Irish and had hopes to inspire a younger generation. While I found teaching personally fulfilling, I yearned for a greater intellectual challenge. I decided to undertake a law diploma while teaching concurrently and realised law could provide the mental stimulation I sought. Afterwards, I left teaching to sit the FE-1s.

I currently work as a company secretary in AlterDomus. I work closely with companies and funds in the financial services sector, gaining practical experience in corporate governance and enhancing my strategic insight, while also learning about this sector. This role has provided me with a strong foundation in corporate governance, statutory compliance, and exposure to key aspects of corporate transactions. I have strengthened my interpersonal and communication skills by liaising with domestic and

multi-jurisdictional colleagues, clients, boards, and third parties, which has prepared me to collaborate effectively in complex transactions. My experience in preparing statutory filings has honed my precision and attention to detail, while minuting meetings has enhanced my risk management knowledge, and understanding of how companies operate. All of these experiences are highly relevant to a career in corporate law.

During my internship in Sheehan and Company Solicitors I gained exposure to life in a law firm. I was involved in transactions in various practice areas, including property, company, succession, and contract law. I developed skills in legal research, contract analysis, client interaction, and case management, all critical for advising clients successfully. This experience provides me with a solid legal foundation, preparing me for the fast-paced environment at ByrneWallace.

While my experiences in teaching and retail aren't directly related to a legal career, they have provided me with invaluable transferable skills. Developing lesson plans and managing retail operations taught me how to structure tasks, manage time effectively, and stay organised under pressure, skills which are essential as a corporate lawyer when handling multiple client matters. Leading teams and coordinating committees has strengthened my leadership and project management abilities, while working with students and customers has honed my communication and interpersonal skills. I believe these skills will help me to contribute meaningfully to work and life in ByrneWallace.

I have a lifelong interest in business, stemming from my parents' background as small supermarket owners and my own contribution to their business from a young age. In addition, I find law cognitively stimulating. Thus, I am keen on pursuing corporate law, where business and law intersect.

Corporate lawyers must be both legal and business advisors. I have excelled in my legal studies and gained commercial experience at AlterDomus. I look forward to combining

these strengths. ByrneWallace exemplifies this approach, having advised on three award-winning transactions in Finance Dublin's Deals of the Year Awards 2024.

I'm interested in pursuing a career with ByrneWallace as ByrneWallace is one of Ireland's largest and most progressive law firms. As I have experience in financial services, I'm attracted by the fact that ByrneWallace has a well established and respected financial services department.

Moreover, it's clear to me that trainees are empowered by a supportive trainee programme. I'm impressed by the emphasis on learning and development within the firm and also the prevalence of mentorship. In addition, I am attracted by the friendly, diverse and inclusive culture. It is particularly inspiring to me that ByrneWallace has achieved gender-parity at Partner level.

I am eager to bring my skills, experience, and commitment to a career in corporate law by joining your firm as a trainee solicitor. My background in legal and corporate client-focused environments, coupled with my strong interpersonal, analytical, and organisational abilities, has prepared me to excel in a fast-paced corporate law firm. I am excited about the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to your firm's success, while further developing my legal expertise and gaining hands-on experience. I would welcome the chance to further discuss my application and how I can be a valuable addition to your team.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my application.

Yours faithfully,

Tony McBrien