



FEARGAL BRENNAN

Managing partner
Byrne Wallace Shields

ACTIVITY On 1 January, ByrneWallace and LK Shields merged to form Byrne Wallace Shields in one of the largest mergers to date in the Irish legal market, creating a firm of over 430 staff, 82 partners and 219 solicitors.

As one of the largest full-service law firms in Ireland, the merger has significantly enhanced our firm's ability to better meet the constantly evolving needs of our clients. Post-merger, we are now better placed to invest in our people, knowledge and innovation (including AI). It has cemented our position as one of Ireland's leading law firms servicing a diverse array of clients across both the public and private sector.

We now have an increased depth in

expertise across all our core service lines, with added strength within our M&A, funds, competition, disputes, regulatory, technology, AI and data protection teams, as well as banking and finance, projects and energy, employment and real estate.

Following our merger we have also enhanced our domestic and international reach through our local and international networks. In Ireland our Galway office will enable us to support clients based in the

west, including those of our very strong life science practice.

Internationally we will have increased capability in our existing UK and US markets but will have renewed focus on international trade through other jurisdictions (for example, we have recently launched a Canada desk).

LEGISLATIVE CHANGE Post-merger, Byrne Wallace Shields now comprises a larger, better-resourced platform, with enhanced scale and depth of expertise to support our clients achieve their growth ambitions, while navigating the increasing myriad regulations and legal complexity.

Areas of ever-increasing legislative change continue in the fields of AI, technology, data protection, and cyber security – areas where Byrne Wallace Shields has invested heavily, strengthening our capabilities and resources, and where we continue to be well positioned to meet our clients' ever-evolving legal needs.

INNOVATION We continue to invest in AI, IT programming and bespoke systems to enhance and improve how we support our clients' legal needs especially within complex situations involving high volumes of documents and information. For example, we are investing in AI technology and various use cases such as in document drafting and review. We are also increasingly developing bespoke client portals with 24/7 accessibility and user-friendly reporting tools, data capture and case tracking capabilities.

OUTLOOK Merger and consolidation will continue to be a feature of what is a highly fragmented legal market in order to facilitate the type of investments law firms need to make to support future growth and better service their clients. Scale is increasingly important and without consolidation, some firms may risk falling behind.

Our own recent merger, which combined two of Ireland's largest law firms, ByrneWallace and LK Shields, has significantly enhanced our ability to provide the scale and depth of expertise and resources to better meet our clients' needs, positioning us as Ireland's sixth largest law firm and a leading adviser to a diverse array of domestic and international clients.

'Merger and consolidation will continue to be a feature of what is a highly fragmented legal market'



Byrne Wallace Shields

On 1 January 2025, ByrneWallace LLP and LK Shields Solicitors LLP merged to form Byrne Wallace Shields.

With over 430 people including 219 solicitors, Byrne Wallace Shields LLP has the scale and depth of expertise to support our clients, domestic and international, achieve their growth ambitions.

We offer strength in depth across the key areas of corporate and commercial law including Corporate/M&A, Banking & Financial Services, EU & Competition, Tax, Litigation, Property, Infrastructure Construction & Energy, Regulatory, Public Sector, Employment, Technology, Cyber, AI, and Data Privacy.

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