Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt St,

Saint Kevin’s,

Dublin,

Ireland.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an upper Second-Class law graduate from University College Dublin, currently studying a Master of Laws postgraduate degree at the London School of Economics. Drawn to the practical application of robust legal theory to the forefront of the financial world, Byrne Wallace is where I aspire to practice law.

Excelling in my studies has required lateral thinking and the construction of logical arguments under time constraints. I am drawn to the similarly stimulating nature of a career at Byrne Wallace, providing cutting edge solutions to complex transactions that saw the firm named the “Top 10 M&A Legal Advisers 2016-2020”. Byrne Wallace is very committed to the growth and development of their staff, encouraging trainees to gain practical experience at an early stage. As such, trainees gain greater commercial exposure and considerable responsibility early in their careers- an opportunity to learn from the best.

Having studied at the London School of Economics, a university with students from over 140 different countries. I greatly appreciate diversity and its role in bringing about innovative solutions that build upon different views and experiences. In 2018 Byrne Wallace achieved gender balance amongst its partners, thus signifying its entrenched position and giving it a competitive advantage. Working in such an environment is hugely beneficial as it enables one to be part of a broad team of individuals renowned for providing cutting-edge solutions in lucrative and complex transactions. The firm demonstrated its ability to do this when it advised Rothco on its sale to Accenture. I also deeply respect the firm’s commitment to fundraising and pro bono work by virtue of its Corporate Responsibility Programme. This commitment to giving back resonated with me as I raised €3000 for suicide and self-harm prevention.

From working with the corporate team at DAC Beachcroft, I have identified the qualities and skills necessary to succeed as a commercial lawyer. In this regard, adaptability is critical. Having completed various internships, I have a natural ability to learn and proven versatility to adapt to changing work demands and challenges. An acute eye for detail is also necessary. I honed this skill when researching the potential forms of protection for Ireland’s first bespoke clinician’s app: by identifying the patent criteria for software and meticulously analysing the language used in the patent application. I have shown strong written and oral communication skills throughout my academic career; both are vital to progress in law. I bolstered these skills by competing in the UCD Negotiating Competition, working in litigation, and throughout my tenure as class representative for final year UCD law students. Lastly, the quality I deem most important, that of resilience. Due to a severe weightlifting injury that left me partially paralysed for much of 2020, I completed all of my law assignments in the hospital. Within one year, I received three spinal operations. In that timeframe, I achieved a 1.1 in my studies for that year. I have since secured a place on the LLM at LSE and participated in three law internships. Taken together, I believe these qualities will allow me to become an asset to the firm from an early stage.

The opportunity to take on this challenge and surround myself with like-minded people truly excites me. I want to thank you for taking the time to examine my application and cover letter.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Costello