Dear Trainee Solicitor Recruitment Partners

I wish to apply for a position in the 2023 Internship Programme offered by Byrne Wallace. In this letter, I will offer a brief overview about why I believe my qualities, skillset and extracurricular interests are indicative of a successful career at your firm.

My academic record and extracurricular interests underscore my individual ambition and incentive, coupled with a cooperative mindset. As a Leaving Certificate tutor, I appreciate the importance of deadlines, planning and self-responsibility when committing myself to a task, especially when high expectations are the norm. I have a deep sense of commitment and loyalty to those whose place their trust in me, not least because they are willing to pay for my services.

Extensive work experience is a necessity in appreciating a potential career, so when initially considering a career in law I undertook work experience in a local law firm, Patrick Hogan and Co. Solicitors. I was tasked with administrative duties such as digital filing, directing clients, word processing and running errands - all essential for efficiency - but additionally had extensive exposure to the legal operations of the firm. For instance, I attended a civil proceeding concerning a hire purchase dispute at Ballinasloe District Court, received a practical induction into conveyancing and oversaw the essential legal mechanisms governing wills and inheritance. This experience confirmed my intention to pursue a legal career.

Last summer, I undertook an internship at the Legal Aid Board in Smithfield, where I was placed in the International Protection unit. I researched cases and assisted in consultations with the managing solicitor. As our clients had fled war, persecution and discrimination before seeking refugee status in Ireland, I was well aware that we were assisting a vulnerable group of clients who were deserving of compassion and care throughout the process. Upon reflection, this experience highlighted the importance of building meaningful relationships with clients so as their interests are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis.

My strong aptitude for debating, public speaking and political discourse would prove beneficial in the legal profession, as inclusive discussion, research and coherent presentation are indispensable for a successful legal firm. I was a finalist in the 2020 Trinity College Law Society Maidens Competition and I am representing the university in the Undergraduate National Moot Competition in November 2022.

I write freelanced articles and columns for several publications including the local *Ballinasloe Life* magazine, and *Trinity News*. In response to increased political polarisation and ideologically isolated media I jointly set up a blog, crossfir.eu, where we aim to collate divergent analyses on pertinent issues, including recent human rights reform proposals in the UK.

I am a frequently write for the ‘Letters to the Editor’ section of several national newspapers, including the Irish Independent and the Irish Times. Several of my letters have been published over the last few years where I discussed matters such as the economic opportunities arising from Brexit, psephological analysis of recent election results and proposed reforms to State Examinations. This activity has helped immensely in my delivery of coherent, clear and concise information, a skill which is a necessity for a successful legal career.

I have a strong interest in social scientific research, which is reflected in my project to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in 2016. After the removal of the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, I conducted an in-depth analysis into the changing political beliefs of Irish citizens and compared such changes along geographic and demographic lines. My project was based on primary sources, by conducting a random anonymous survey of 1000 people from rural and urban counties. I presented my findings at the national Young Scientist Exhibition where I came first place in the Senior Social Science category.

I am an avid Irish traditional musician; I play the piano accordion in local Singing Circles, in national Fleadh Cheoil competitions and with groups in university. Indeed, I am firmly of the opinion that a healthy work-life balance is massively beneficial in such a demanding profession as law.

I hope you will consider my application in a favourable light. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me by email on murphr60@tcd.ie or by mobile on 0892192988.

Please see my CV attached.

References are available upon request.

Kindest regards

Rónán Murphy