**Rory Penny – Traineeship Application**

By way of introduction, my name is Rory Penny. I am a 4th year LLB student in Maynooth University. Throughout my time in Maynooth I have maintained high academic standards, receiving a 1.1 Grade in 1st Year (Ranked No. 1 in Class) and a 2.1 Grade in 2nd Year (Ranked No. 5 in Class). These academic achievements were a factor in my selection for both the Student Placement and Study Abroad Programme in 3rd Year.

I was initially selected to spend the year at Boston College. However, upon receiving offers from three Dublin-based firms, I ultimately chose to work at Matheson for the duration of 3rd Year. I believe this demonstrates my commitment to a career in this profession. It was an excellent experience and gave me an incredible insight into how these companies operate and also into the requisite standard that is necessary to work in a leading corporate law firm.

During my time in Maynooth I have received both the Mullany Walsh Maxwells Award for Legal Writing 2018 and the Maynooth University MUSE Award (Advanced Level) 2019. My essay entitled ‘*Working in the Gig Economy: Does Irish Employment Law Provide Sufficient Protection?’* was published in the most recent edition of the ‘Golden Thread’, the Law Review of Maynooth University. Beginning in 2018 I have regularly volunteered at events held by the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development and Irish Criminal Justice Agencies. My reports from these events have also been published.

I am a member of FLAC, ELSA and Maynooth LawSoc. My membership in ELSA has resulted in many amazing opportunities to travel, study and work abroad. I was selected to be a participant in summer law schools in Zadar, Malta and Naples last year. I had also been selected to commence a STEP Traineeship in Aydaş Liman Kurman, a firm located in Ankara, this past July. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions this was postponed.

I have chosen a career in law for a wide array of reasons. Many of these I have discovered during my placement. A key factor is that this is an arena in which I can best utilise some of my best skills. Being able to use my verbal and written skills, my logic and reasoning, and especially my organisational skills has been an incredible experience. I have also found that the fast-paced environment suits me greatly.

The variety of matters that are encountered is also of huge appeal to me. It is rarely tedious or repetitive work either. Excitement and enjoyment in my work are essential. Ultimately, when I look forward and envisage where I want to be in ten years-time, it is working in an environment that allows me to utilise my best skills and excel at what I do. I believe the legal profession is where this is most possible.

Within the legal profession, ByrneWallace is an ideal place to pursue this future career. As one of the leading firms in Ireland, I cannot think of a better place to develop my skills further and gain a greater understanding of the world of corporate law. ByrneWallace is an appealing environment to work in because of its high professional standards, commitment to innovation and variety of sectors. I believe I have consistently demonstrated the key features required of professionals within ByrneWallace, such as drive, intellectual rigour, and an innovative spirit. I view this as a truly incredible opportunity. One that I hope shapes my career further and echoes throughout my life afterwards.