25 Racecourse Gardens,

Ballybrit,

Galway.

20/10/2016

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to apply for Trainee Solicitor Programme as advertised on your graduate recruitment website. I am a graduate of NUI Galway and University College Dublin completing a Bachelor of Civil Law and Masters in Intellectual Property & IT Law respectively. I achieved a Second Class Honours Grade 1 in both instances. My ultimate goal is to pursue a training contract with Byrne Wallace prior to qualifying as a solicitor in Ireland.

I learned about your firm through career events in both UCD and NUI Galway and through independent online research.

In 2015, I completed my Masters at UCD. Finishing with my thesis addressing, "The Emergence of Pharmaceutical Patents in Developing Countries with a Particular Emphasis on India." Achieving a mark of 69 on the thesis, I was struck by the amount of independent research and individual critical thinking needed, but having committed fully to the topic and the process, I found it to be the most rewarding aspect of my academic life thus far. The experience of being involved in such a live issue and ever changing facet of law gave me a real hunger to pursue life as a solicitor given that being involved in ongoing cases would be part of the daily routine. I did not shy away from the challenge and going through the work gave me confidence that I could meet difficult topics, adapt and succeed granted I put in the hard work. Byrne Wallace is one of the largest and most progressive firms in Ireland and your ethos of upholding only the very best in practice standards fits my goal of gaining the most comprehensive and rigorous legal training.

Towards the end of my time at N.U.I., I completed my clinical placement as a researcher in the Law Centre for Children and Young People in Dublin. I got to help analyse ex- Minister Shatters Children’s Rights Bill for consideration by working groups on the topic. Working with the Centre’s Director and corresponding back and forth with developments in the area as they happened was so exciting. I felt genuinely immersed with a real evolving story. It is this immediacy and excitement that I want to continue and is the reason I chose such an impressive and striving firm. This experience allowed me to acquire many skills that are necessary to working in one of Ireland’s leading law firms. I developed excellent analytical skills which allowed me to read the appropriate complex law on point, immediately understand and digest its requirements and apply those requirements. I also attained a keen attention to detail which allowed me to identify even the smallest legal inconsistencies and their consequences. Additionally, I improved my research skills exponentially and learned how to draft and complete law reports. All of these skills are essential in a firm like Byrne Wallace which prides itself on excellent quality service.

I believe my values and aspirations match those of Byrne Wallace. I am motivated and committed to pursuing a career in law. I've been an oarsman in Galway since secondary school and the sport of rowing has thought me a great deal. Through years of a seven day a week training schedule and many big race wins. I have learned the value of teamwork and commitment on a scale I hadn't considered before. The sheer consistency of effort needed to succeed surprised me at first but has now become a part of my daily routine even after I have left the sport. I'm aware your firm has a reputation of having a very dynamic team and although I am a competitive person by nature, working as a team and being a valuable cog in a well-oiled machine is a priority of mine.

Again, I feel I have the necessary qualities to continue Byrne Wallace’s long tradition of delivering consistently excellent client centred advice. I have shown perseverance in pursuing a career in law. I value hard work and effort and believe these are key qualities for any aspiring solicitors. I have illustrated focused goals, drive and determination throughout my life as well as a willingness to solicit effective support to make my goals happen. I want to build on my many achievements and my education and keep getting better. I believe Byrne Wallace is the perfect place to realise those aims. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully,

Aaron Kelly