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Dear Ms. Murray

I am writing this letter in support of my application for a place on the ByrneWallace Trainee Programme. I am a First-Class Honours History graduate and Gold Medallist of Trinity College Dublin. Since graduating in 2021, I have passed 5 FE1 exams while interning part time at a smaller law firm in Dublin. I am currently sitting my final 3 FE1 exams with the intention to have completed all 8 by the end of 2022. Over the past 4 years I have attained legal experience in different sectors, both commercial and private client, in law firms and in-house. Such experiences have consolidated my decision to pursue corporate law as I believe that it suits my character as someone who is ambitious, enthusiastic, and has an interest in current affairs. Outside of law, I am in my second year of a marketing internship with a charitable organisation for disadvantaged women, which is based in London.

As a History graduate it is natural for one to ask, why corporate law? The answer; I am a pragmatic person who enjoys finding solutions to complicated questions. Lord Sumption in a Cambridge debate entitled “*Those Who Wish to Practise Law Should Not Study Law at University?*” stated that practitioners who studied subjects like History gained a “*serious intellectual grounding in a mind-changing subject*” while also possessing the key qualities of being a lawyer – attention to detail, analytical skills, and sound logic. I believe that this argument applies to me. Furthermore, I believe my different academic background will offer a fresh perspective to situations that arise and might distinguish me from other candidates.

Training at ByrneWallace appeals to me on both a personal and professional level. The firm boasts a strong reputation in a wide array of practice areas, which is enticing as an aspiring trainee who wants to gain as much exposure to different areas of the law – and the complex challenges that this brings. To be trained under the guidance of professionals in their respective fields with the exposure to nuanced legal issues, makes for a better lawyer and is thus something I seek as a prospective trainee. I understand that ByrneWallace is keen to give its trainees genuine responsibility and as someone who does not shy away from a challenge, I aspire to work in a firm that fosters my career from the outset.

ByrneWallace’s strong reputation as one of Ireland’s largest litigation teams also made it a natural choice for me to apply. After completing a 10 week internship in a commercial litigation seat this summer, I found that the analytical, almost academic nature of the work really suited my disposition. Not only did litigation suit my extroverted personality, but I was drawn to how detail-oriented the work was – trawling through Vlexjustis for the perfect case to enunciate a point was smugly satisfying. As mentioned above, ByrneWallace represents a diverse range of clients across many areas of the law, including advising clients on employer’s liability and public liability; areas which I thoroughly enjoyed studying in the course of my exams and would be excited to experience in practice. I am, however, open-minded about which areas and sectors of the law I would like to specialise. I am fortunate to have gained some practical experience in construction, succession, and commercial and look forward to being exposed to new areas of law that I have not yet experienced.

In a more personal sense, I believe that the culture of decency sets ByrneWallace aside from other firms in that it encourages professional and personal development, allowing employees to foster genuine relationships while endorsing an honest working environment. As someone who has worked on teams, played with teams, and volunteered with teams (all both in Ireland and outside the State) I think it is a universally fundamental attribute to any healthy functioning environment and is testament to the fact that many of ByrneWallace’s partners trained with the firm.

If given the opportunity, I believe that I would be a good fit for ByrneWallace. Academically, I think that I am capable of working at a top tier firm having excelled in secondary school, college, and comfortably passed the FE1s despite not having studied law prior to those exams. Moreover, I believe that I should be afforded the opportunity to interview with ByrneWallace as I am highly motivated and hardworking, while simultaneously, I enjoy my work and hobbies (and have a particular interest in modern Irish history) making me a well-rounded candidate who deals well under pressure.

Finally, my work experience has rendered me a commercially minded and service apt individual. I believe that I have the drive, the unquenchable curiosity and integrity necessity to be an exceptional trainee and colleague.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Symington