2 Bird Avenue

Clonskeagh

Dublin 14

18th October 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme with Byrne Wallace. I have recently graduated from UCD with a first class honours degree in Philosophy and I am currently commencing preparations for the FE-1 examinations.

After completing my undergraduate degree in Philosophy in May 2016 I have spent the summer months gaining experience within several areas of the legal industry; criminal, in-house and business law. During my time with Sherbornes Solicitors I was responsible for drafting contracts, preparing bundles ahead of employment tribunal hearings and legal research. The responsibility that I was given taught me the importance of having an acute attention to detail while at the same time keeping an eye on the bigger picture so as not to lose track of the initial purpose. Byrne Wallace’s wide portfolio of practice areas would enable me to build on the legal experience I already have whilst also solidifying the skills that I have acquired and I would relish this opportunity.

It is clear that an important role for a solicitor is legal research. I am confident that my role as a Research Assistant at Oxford Brookes University has taught me many valuable skills that are transferable from academia to the legal industry. More generally, my previous work experience in hospitality, disability sports coaching and private French tuition has made me extremely conscious of meeting deadlines and working in a diligent and professional manner. My recent invitation, by a UCD Professor, to attend an international philosophy conference was a great honour and one where I was, once again, able to demonstrate my commitment to furthering my experiences in an academic and professional environment.

My ability to work well with clients has been enhanced by my experience in the customer service industry for the past five years during school and university. I have worked in numerous hotels and restaurants and I currently work at The Greenery in Donnybrook. The business bestows much importance on client retention and maintaining their good reputation in the South Dublin area and I work hard to uphold these values. Working in the legal industry one has to deal with differences of opinion and since law, like hospitality, is a service profession I am confident that my experience as a waitress has taught me the importance of dealing with these obstacles in a professional manner.

As a philosophy graduate, and recipient of the Conor Martin Memorial Award for academic achievement, I will bring something unique to Byrne Wallace. One of the skills that I refined most during my degree is that of argument; I learned how to construct a plausible, coherent argument and importantly the difference between the two. It is often said that philosophy teaches one to think outside of the box, I would suggest that this is incorrect because philosophy is based upon logic and therefore thinking outside the box would be thinking outside of what is logical. Instead I think philosophy teaches one to look at things differently and always to question if a situation can be interpreted from a different angle. I think that these skills will make me an asset to your firm.

After leaving school I worked as an au pair in Paris and as a result I speak fluent French. This experience has taught me to always act professionally but to do so in an amicable and approachable manner; an attribute I believe to be essential in a working environment. I gain much enjoyment from working hard and having high aspirations; this ethos is equally important to me in and outside the work place. In addition to my interest in French language I have been committed to sport throughout my degree. I have competed in triathlon and in more recent years charity half marathons, commitment to training as well as my studies has taught me to be organised and vigilant with my time.

A traineeship at Byrne Wallace is an exciting opportunity for me as an ambitious professional and I would be delighted to expand on my experiences in an interview.

Yours faithfully,

Bethan Murphy Hand