**Application for a Traineeship with ByrneWallace**

Dear Trainee Management Panel,

Since joining the firm in July, I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming part of the ByrneWallace team, and it is my objective to train and progress after qualification with Ireland’s most progressive law firm, learning from the best minds and the most expert mentors in the industry.

The study and practice of law is a challenging pursuit, and I am confident that my strong academic background will benefit me in this regard. In particular, I believe that the study of languages and literature has a uniquely significant place in a corporate law firm. As a German Studies graduate, I have been thoroughly trained in developing written argumentation, summarising a broad range of texts, undertaking the analysis of facts and evidence and delivering oral presentations. All of this has sharpened my attention to detail and ability to produce consistently high-quality work. This was reflected in my final year module ‘Satire on the German Stage' where I was awarded the highest mark in my year. As a graduate of the University of Manchester, I was also fortunate enough to have been educated in an environment that embraces and values cultural diversity.

Since returning to Ireland and undertaking the Law Society FE1 exams, I have demonstrated a capacity for hard work, a drive to succeed, and a commitment to pursuing a career in law. I passed my first set of exams in March 2018 and expect to receive confirmation that I have passed a further three in November.

The trainee programme at ByrneWallace is unique for many reasons: in particular, I have experienced the benefits of the open-door policy which operates throughout the firm. This enables trainees to engage regularly with the firm’s partners/senior associates, opening up a world of learning opportunities.

With an impressive 18 female partners, (and an almost 50:50 male/female partner ratio), ByrneWallace distinguishes itself with the fantastic strides being made in gender diversity within the firm. I can be assured of an inclusive level of mentorship where my talents will be nurtured and developed.

As a trainee, I would endeavour to be absolutely committed to achieving the best outcomes for our clients.  My strongest skills are my capacity for hard work, attention to detail and ability to get on with colleagues and clients, and I am confident that this will serve me well for a career in a commercial law firm such as ByrneWallace.

My current role as Legal Secretary has allowed me to experience and embrace a variety of practice areas; to date, I have worked in the Property, Corporate and Employment departments. This has challenged me to constantly step outside of my comfort zone and quickly adapt to new projects, colleagues and clients, while working in a deadline-driven environment.

During my time working at the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement, I gained a comprehensive insight and understanding into Irish company law. Working closely with a team of solicitors and detectives on a high-profile case, I was responsible for reviewing documents, drafting witness statements and filing affidavits in the Central Office. I gained invaluable exposure into the field of corporate governance and the experience reinforced my enthusiasm to pursue a career in corporate law.

There are exciting times ahead for ByrneWallace which has successfully constructed a leading presence on an Irish and international basis. The post-Brexit economy will undoubtedly present challenges for Ireland but will also cultivate many opportunities. I am eager to be part of a firm which seeks to present clients with innovative solutions to this complex issue.

Since graduating I have been able to build on my core skills: I have proven to be highly adaptable and a fast learner, with experience in diverse industries across Ireland, Germany, New Zealand and Australia. I believe that having tested myself outside of my comfort zone, I can bring a new perspective as a trainee solicitor.

My year working in Germany provided me with the opportunity to embrace another language, culture and working environment. I successfully integrated myself into a rural school in Eastern Germany, designing effective lesson plans tailored to each class which stimulated and motivated my students. In my role with the Migration Institute of Australia, I was responsible for advising clients on migration issues pertaining to their visa applications.

I am confident that my life experience and resilience will allow me to adjust to the challenges that a traineeship brings and help me to cope with the inevitable pressures of the role.

It is for the reasons outlined above that I believe I am a strong candidate for the ByrneWallace 2019 graduate programme.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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