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17th October 2018

Dear Manager of the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace,

I am applying for a Traineeship at Byrne Wallace. I am a Final Year undergraduate student at Trinity College Dublin, studying Law.

The reasons I want to complete traineeship are to compliment my undergraduate university studies, to increase my legal knowledge and to gain practical experience through working in a progressive Law Practice. Byrne Wallace is one of the best law firms in Ireland and the firm offers a very attractive traineeship programme, promising to nurture talent and develop new solicitors with a drive to achieve the best result for every client.

I have always had a passion for law and choosing which course to study in college was never a problem for me. That same excitement I had to begin my studies of Law in Trinity remains as I begin my final year. I have chosen a broad range of modules in order to get a well-rounded view of the law of Ireland and abroad. I completed one semester in Boston College Law School where I studied as part of Trinity’s Exchange Programme. The modules I studied there were part of the Boston College Masters Program in Law and all of my fellow students were graduates. This was an incredible experience both academically and socially. I believe my time in Boston has greatly improved my ability to critique and question the law of different jurisdictions against each other. Studying abroad was a challenging experience but I worked hard and still found it thoroughly enjoyable.

Having returned from Boston, I completed my dissertation. I focused my work on comparing the development and implementation of the exclusionary rule between the US and Ireland. Having studied Criminal Procedure in the US, this was a really interesting topic for me and I thoroughly enjoyed enhancing my knowledge in the Criminal Law of the two jurisdictions.

I have a good knowledge of a broad range of legal sectors from my years of studying a variety of differing law modules and work experience. I worked for Barry Doyle and Co. Solicitors for three weeks this summer, drafting case briefs, helping to host clients in preparation for trial and assisting with legal research. I then worked as a summer student at the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Enforcement. There, I worked on an independent project reviewing the authorisation cards of Agency inspectors and presenting my recommendations in a report as well as a presentation to the Cork staff. These experiences have taught me a wide variety of skills that are essential to working as a trainee in a firm with such a high standard of work ethic as Byrne Wallace.

I really enjoy working as a team player and my experience on TCD Camogie Club Committee has helped me advance my skills in working with people. I find working and acting with integrity is essential. I have strong attention to detail which has been invaluable through my studies of law and I know will stand to me throughout my career in a corporate law firm.

I am confident that my work ethic as well as my experience and studies to date have prepared me to be a strong candidate for your traineeship programme and that I can contribute to the success of your law practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

Ciara O’Brien