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Byrne Wallace

To Whom it May Concern

I would like to apply for the Trainee Programme that is currently advertised on you website.

There are a number of reasons why I would like to apply for this position and number of key strengths which I feel I could bring to the position and contribute to the firm. The primary reason I am applying for this position is to achieve my goal of pursuing a career in a law firm. In having a predominantly legal academic background integrated with elements of business, I have taken the first step towards achieving this career goal. The next step is to apply this knowledge to a practical and professional setting and develop the necessary skills that accompany this knowledge in becoming an effective and successful practitioner in this field. Working for Wallace Byrne will provide me with these skills and through your training programme I will develop these skills in manner which is client focused and developed to allow for effective practice in a multitude of areas.

I would love the opportunity to work for Byrne Wallace specifically as your firm specialises in a variety of different areas I have a particular interest in such as Public Procurement, Privacy and Data Protection and Family Law. During my LLM Master’s degree, I completed a Public Procurement Law module and despite not originally planning to take it as part of the course it was one the modules I found most interesting. I enjoyed learning about the tender process from the perspectives of both the contracting authorities and the tenderer's. It was interesting looking at the different responsibilities contracting authorities have in relation to forming, advertising and awarding contracts under both Irish and EU procurement regulations and directives. Equally it was interesting looking at responsibilities of tenderer's seeking to procure contracts and avenues of redress they may seek where the contract is accused of being improperly denied.

Another interesting module completed during my masters was Information Privacy Law. This module was primarily focused on data protection and I found learning about the upcoming GDPR and how it is going to impact and protect both companies and individuals as data collectors and subjects under the regulation very interesting. It is an area which is very current and relevant in today’s technological society, which I would find an exciting and engaging environment to work in and advise clients. It is an area particularly important for businesses to understand in needing to ensure that they are both are operating in accordance with this new directive as data controllers and ensuring they are taking the necessary steps to protect their data.

Additionally another module I found particularly interesting during my academic journey which your firm specialise in is Family Law. I completed this module as part of my postgraduate LLB Degree with the first semester focusing on the law relating to marital couples such as marriage, divorce, separation and wills, while the second semester focused on the law relating to the child such as adoption, custody, surrogacy and artificial insemination. Having the opportunity to study this module was a contributing factor in my decision to do the LLB and I would now love to further develop this knowledge and put it into practice.

In working for Byrne Walla should I be offered the position, there are additionally a number of key strengths I have which I feel would make me suited to the role. I am committed to ensuring I complete any task to a high standard and in a timely fashion with my academic and professional experience developing this skill. As both a student completing assignments and a lecturer preparing class material and assessments each week I have learned how to effectively work to a deadline and get the job done. My current position as a lecturer has emphasised the value of this skill as it is imperative to ensure I prepare and deliver my lectures in time and to the high standard my students deserve. This skill could be equally applied to the context of working in a law firm as I would always ensure I efficiently complete my work and provide clients with the high quality advice they deserve.

My lecturing position is also a good example which shows both my ability to embrace challenge and enhanced presentation and group speaking skills, which are useful attributes for a commercial legal setting. During my college years and academic journey present I found delivering presentations a challenge and wasn’t very comfortable with speaking in front of large groups. However upon finishing my master’s I was offered the associate lecturing position and despite my prior feelings towards presenting I took the job seeing it as a good opportunity and challenge for me to overcome these reservations. In having 90 full-time and 50 part-time students I was undoubtedly pushed out of my comfort zone and challenged to effectively deliver the classes and help my students. I was determined to overcome this challenge and step up to the mark which I did by focusing on the needs of the student. It was on this basis I became less focused on my own personal reservations towards presenting and more focused on ensuring I gave students my best in each lecture. Presentations are now no longer an issue and I am much more comfortable and confident in getting up to speak in front of groups.

Furthermore, I have the ability to work effectively both individually and as part of a team with my academic background and involvement in tennis and sport identifying this skill. As a student, in additional to completing individual essay work, there were many occasions where the delivery of a group presentation was required, with the presentation project delivered as part of my World Trade Law module during my masters being an example. The main objective of this project was to deliver a group presentation on a topic discussed in class. The group was composed of five people and together we worked as an effective team to deliver the presentation, which was reflected in our high grade of 73% obtained. I was dedicated to ensuring I was an active team member and completed my portion of the work efficiently. I also contributed to the group in being the main team member to arrange meeting times and locations as well as combining all group members portions of work into a single PowerPoint file to ensure there was a consistent flow and professional look to the presentation as whole. My interest in sport and active involvement in tennis can also show my teamwork skills as playing competitively on a league team requires planning and working well together to succeed in winning matches. This effective skill in team work would be useful in a legal working environment as many of the projects and tasks for clients would involve working as part of a team.

It is based on these reasons I am applying to the Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme and feel I am suited to the position.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Maguire