**Colm O’Connell LL.B.**

**Cover Letter**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to apply for the *Byrne Wallace* Traineeship Programme. I am a graduate of the University of Limerick where I obtained 2.1 degree in Law and Economics.

I am currently studying towards obtaining the IPMA Certified Diploma in Project Management, a course run by the Institute of Management Ireland. I chose to do this course as it consists of a large number of case studies to be analysed across a wide range of business areas – from financial planning to risk management to strategic planning. Upon completion of this course, I am confident I will be possess a very high standard of organisational and communication skills.

 I strongly believe that I am a suitable candidate for the *Byrne Wallace* Trainee Development Programme for the following reasons:

Firstly, owing to my education and relevant work experience, I now possess the appropriate skill set, commercial awareness and work ethic required in order to fulfil my potential as a trainee solicitor.

Secondly, my enduring interest in commercial matters and current affairs has allowed me to expand my knowledge considerably in the areas of Asset Management, Investment Funds, Corporate and Commercial Property issues. I now spend most Saturday morning reading through opinion pieces and the business pages of the Irish Times and Daily Telegraph. I also read many articles in areas of law that interest me on Lexology and I am currently subscribed to various authors within *Byrne Wallace*.

Thirdly, from a reading of the Trainee Profiles on the *Byrne Wallace* website, the Trainee Programme presents the ideal opportunity and challenge I have been studying and working towards for the majority of my life. The opportunity to learn from leading legal practitioners and gaining a practical “on the job” learning experience is a hugely attractive environment I would like to be a part of. A common theme running through all Trainee’s profiles is they all believe the Training Programme equips them with all the tools required to become a successful solicitor and provides a fantastic launch pad for a legal career.

Two very distinct personal traits which I bring to all facets of both my personal and professional life are honesty and diligence. Both traits continue to serve me well whether it is working to deliver high quality work to a partner and client or in the sporting arena. I am certain those traits would continue to serve me well would I be offered a place on the Trainee Programme.

As shown on my application form, I am an avid sportsman. I completely value the benefits of teamwork and realise that an effective and honest team is a successful team. I play GAA and Rugby at a highly competitive level in Dublin and one team of which I am club captain. I have represented Rockwell College at all age-levels captaining various teams and have represented Munster at an underage level. I am a former u20 player with Garryowen and I currently play for my home club Clonmel RFC.

I have also represented Tipperary at Minor and underage Gaelic Football levels. I currently play senior football in Dublin with ClannaGael-Fontenoy.

In University and School, I also obtained the following achievements:

* Obtained first class honours for my Final Year Project in University - The Project investigated criminal negligence in sport.
* Awarded highest grade in a 2nd year economics class regarding Facebook's Initial Public Offering
* Winner - University of Limerick Debating Union Freshers Competition
* Medal of Excellence in Irish Literature – Rockwell College

One personal regret I carry is not suspending sport from my life leading into my Leaving Certificate Exams where I suffered a severe injury and which I believe impaired my ability to prepare for the Leaving Certificate exams which had the probable effect of costing me CAO points..

I have also completed charity work where I was a member of the committee of the Stuart Mangan Appeal and is my proudest achievement to date. I have recently engaged with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and helped organised events to raise funds for both charities.

Finally I wish to thank you for taking the time to read my covering letter and considering my application and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Colm O’Connell