To whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for a traineeship at ByrneWallace; an outstanding firm which I feel will best enable me to further my legal career.

The firm strikes me as never being afraid to take the lead, to be innovative and to push the boundaries. I believe I have time and again showed the ability to lead, through my captaincy of my tag rugby team and also through my being elected Prefect in Terenure College. Despite having people who may have been more talented rugby players than me on my tag rugby team, I am a firm believer in the idea of a team being only as good as its weakest member. My strength was not scoring lots of tries, but in helping my teammates who had never played before, answering their questions and listening to their problems as well as encouraging them to get more involved. This proved successful as we excelled as a team and won two trophies.

I am not afraid to push the boundaries either, having some hearing difficulties, I was told that I would likely struggle in University. However, I achieved a II:1 in both first and second year. I wanted to challenge myself further, and decided to go on Erasmus, to Granada in Spain, where all my classes were taught through Spanish and exams were written in Spanish. While the results of my third year exams were not what I would expect of myself, I am still proud of myself for doing it, for trying something different and for trying to push myself the extra mile. My final year results, as well as my results in other years in Trinity College suggest I am a II.1 standard student.

My interest in ByrneWallace was first sparked when I attended your open evening prior to the traineeship applications last October. The firm’s managing partner, Catherine Guy, struck me as a very good leader and in meeting with her in Leopardstown during the course of my work with Tote, she seemed very personable and approachable and I would be very interested in working in a firm with a managing partner like that. The idea of working in a more closely knit firm, who are constantly competing for the biggest clients, is one that I find very appealing. I enjoyed the idea that someone could enter the firm on a Monday and by Friday they would have a good knowledge of a huge portion of the firm. Aside from that, there was an enormous emphasis placed on the amount of time and money which is invested in the trainees and this is enormously welcoming as a recent graduate.

Before beginning my internship in Dechert, I had no real experience of the Funds industry. By the end of the first day, and certainly by the end of the first week, I was well aware of some of the more intricate details of what was going on. In the Central Bank, I so quickly displayed a level of competence that I was trusted with processing orders on SAP, something which would normally be done by someone much my senior. Anyone who has met me will attest to the fact that I am a quick and eager learner. I believe that by learning from one of Ireland’s top law firms, even for a month’s internship, I can continue to grow, to push myself and to hone my skills which will benefit me in my pursuit of a career in law.

Kind Regards,

Colm O’Donoghue