Colm Roche,

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Dear Recruitment,

I am excited to apply to the ByrneWallace Traineeship programme. I have reflected on my experience of studying law in DCU, but also while working in a corporate environment that a career in law is key to my development. I want to invest my time in becoming and growing into a world-class corporate lawyer. I am currently a Paralegal at SAP Ireland, and over the last year and a half, I have engaged in a collaborative and innovative corporate environment. This has exposed and challenged me to learn and develop my understanding of the role of a corporate lawyer. I support a global team of Lawyers, and my mentors have inspired pursue a meaningful legal career especially Caoimhe Kennedy (previous ByrneWallace Solicitor),. I would support various topics, for example, corporate governance, such as managing the Corporate Secretary portfolio in SAP. To further my experience, I assist with Customer questions and negotiate high-value value commercial technology contracts. As a result, I have seen how the development of technology has influenced how we complete tasks such as monitoring legal spend using brightflag or how AI and machine learning aid in negotiation. I am interested in how the role of a lawyer will develop in the future by using technology to enable better client relationships and improve customer satisfaction For example, I was Project Lead on a small innovative sprint with a global team of lawyers developing a software application using Chat Bots and AI to deal with repetitive customer or sales requests sent to legal. In my role, I had to coordinate my team of lawyers to think about how can technology influence and aid the lawyer of tomorrow.

I have learned that legal provides an outlet for business success and that law cannot be seen in isolation. I believe that my role at SAP has expanded my commercial awareness. I have taken the initiative to be open-minded about the different cultures worldwide and build work-based relationships with my team. I took the opportunity as a leap of faith into the corporate world. This is a personal achievement because not everyone gets to experience in-house legal and work alongside the senior legal counsel while supporting commercial technology deals. I have had exposure to complex contract transactions, worked with law firms to make SAP succeed and ensure proper governance. Although the work concerning commercial technology contracts is complicated, I thrive off this complexity, which motivates me to learn from my colleagues and gain industry knowledge.

I believe I have the foundations of skills that will equip me to work in your leading firm.

* Legal Research - I have learned how to research legal issues and present them in a business forced mindset to clarify complex commercial contract issues.
* Drafting and negotiating legal terms for commercial agreements: I have gained experience negotiating basic contracts such as NDAs for SAP in a customer-facing role. I have also supported my team lead, who arranges the larger commercial contracts, and it is a skill that I want to improve and use in practice to close deals. I also have experience running redlines and comparing legal documents using Microsoft Office. This is an essential skill because Law is not about going to court every day, but commercial contracts can balance these litigation risks in practice. I have gained a genuine interest in commercial technology contracts.
* Agility and Professionalism: I can work seamlessly and cohesively for the business interest. Law cannot be seen in isolation; therefore, it is up to the lawyer to be comprehensive in their understanding of business. Outside of the lecture hall, I am involved in society's and realise that relationships are essential for interpersonal development. I also strive for balance and well-being to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

As I have illustrated above, a factor that attracted me to this role is the scope of growth available. I am motivated to pursue a career in Commercial Law to challenge myself.. It is evident that the team is strongly motivated, professional, and dedicated to their clients. ByrneWallace can enable me by providing the recourses I need to become the solicitor I want to be.

Kind regards,

Colm Roche