63.4.02 Goldsmith Hall,

Westland Row,

Dublin 2

10/10/2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Con Berkery and I wish to apply for a position on the Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme. I am currently a Senior Sophister LLB candidate in Trinity College Dublin and I intend to sit my first set of FE-1 exams in October 2017. I hope to pursue a specialised career in corporate law and am seeking expert training at the hands of highly experienced and competent solicitors. This is one of the foremost reasons I am applying to Byrne Wallace. I believe that the skills and attributes which I have garnered from boarding school, university education, living abroad for four months and from employment across a wide range of industries have aided me in becoming a more rounded and commercially aware individual. I feel that my welcoming and approachable personality would acclimatise quickly to the open and inclusive attitude within Byrne Wallace, and I believe that I display the innovation and foresight necessary to carve out a successful career in the firm.

I am fortunate enough to have had several experiences throughout my life which have moulded me into the well-rounded and open-minded person I consider myself to be today. I was fortunate enough to spend six fantastic years as a student in Cistercian College Roscrea. This school taught me several life lessons that I value to this day, such as discovering new cultures, embracing my inquisitive side, balancing work and study with recreation and socialising, being creative and innovative and trying my hand at new pursuits. Being involved in outdoor activities and sports has enabled me to make new friends, remain active and embrace a sense of serenity when in the midst of intense study periods. I have hurled with my club Toomevara, my school and my university with distinction from a very young age. I also played tennis and rugby in CCR while riding horses at home on the farm at the weekends. This year I have resumed both tennis and hurling in Trinity College and I intend to take golf lessons during the summer months.

I believe that how a person deals with adversity reveals a lot about their character and their true desires. I unfortunately lost two friends and a young cousin within the space of roughly 18 months, leading me to sit my exams in my first year of college but ultimately decide to repeat the year. I then commuted daily from Tipperary to Dublin by bus in order to get my studies back on track, a decision which I do not regret at all. These two years of commuting often involved getting on a bus at 5am in Toomevara and not returning until after midnight but I managed to balance all responsibilities and extra-curricular activities at that time. This, along with spending four wonderful months living and working with friends in Santa Barbara, California, ranks as one of my proudest achievements to date. I believe it showed me to be a person who is willing to put himself in the best position to succeed and who is dedicated enough to work hard in order to achieve his full potential.

Having spoken to members of the firm at career fairs about their experiences, I believe that Byrne Wallace is a firm which is best placed to provide me with the opportunities necessary for me to excel in my chosen field of corporate law. While I always felt that my personality would be suited to a career in law, I first knew I wanted to be a corporate lawyer when I read the book “Who Moved My Cheese?” by Spencer Johnson. The sentiments of always being on the hunt for the cheese and never settling for mediocrity resonated deeply with me and I soon recognised the parallels between these sentiments and corporate law. Having experienced life in a corporate law firm as a summer intern, I know that the cheese is constantly being hidden and it is up to a corporate lawyer to ensure that they find the cheese for their client in the most efficient manner possible. Corporate law is fast-paced, engaging, pressurised, stimulating and rewarding, thus making it the perfect avenue for me to pursue my interests.

As stated, from early childhood I have always been a sporting individual, participating and competing in several different sports. Thus, I have always tried to include a link to sports in my work. However, I do not wish to be typecast as just a sports lawyer and so I envision myself working in a field which combines Technology law, Intellectual Property law, Contract law and Sports law. I have conducted research into this area, writing a substantial piece about IT law which included references to sport, and I have attended conferences such as the One-Zero conference in Dublin in an attempt to meet individuals working in this area and those working in the wider commercial and sporting sphere. I understand that issues such as wearable technology, data protection and e-sports are areas which will see exponential growth in the near future and I wish to place myself in a position to engage with this growth when it happens. Byrne Wallace has one of the foremost Technology law teams in the country and this is one of the primary influences behind my application. I am aware that Byrne Wallace were the first firm in Ireland to have received ISO certification for information security and a firm which demonstrates activity in a field which mirrors my career plans leads me to believe it is one in which I can learn tremendous amounts as a trainee solicitor.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to assess my application and welcome any questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Con Berkery.