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Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace 23rd October 2015

Re: Training Contract - Dublin 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

For the past five years I have had the opportunity to experience working in various roles within the legal industry. When I graduated, I secured a position within the legal department of a global investment bank, negotiating repo agreements with FT 100 companies and banks. It was my first exposure to working with high calibre, demanding counter-parties and I found the work very challenging and stimulating.

Following this, I decided to pursue the route of the Bar and I have been practising as a barrister for the past three years, predominantly in the area of civil defence litigation. I enjoy working in a variety of fields and regularly advise on contractual disputes, personal injury actions as well as corporate and individual insolvency matters. However whilst I thoroughly enjoy the challenging nature of the work and the variety of clients, the role of a self-employed barrister does not provide for the same opportunities to work as part of a team, nor am I exposed to work which has an international reach. The opportunity recently arose to work in-house for Herbert Smith Freehills on a short-term contract, conducting commercial litigation wherein we acted for a global bank in relation to a multi-billion pound rights issue dispute. I found that this opportunity to work on high value cases with prestigious clients, alongside a team, was highly challenging yet rewarding and motivating at the same time.

It is based on this collective experience, obtained across multiple roles within the legal sector that I have confidently decided that re-qualifying as a commercial solicitor is the more appropriate path for me to now pursue further. As one of the largest firms in the Irish legal market, and one which is consistently ranked among the top tiers, I believe Byrne Wallace is the ideal firm for me to advance my career in. The firm’s commitment to the career development of its lawyers, enabling them to realise their full potential, is something that strongly appeals to me as I am always striving to better myself on both a personal and professional level. My aim is to develop my commercial experience further and I remain committed to developing upon the skills and knowledge I attained during my various positions. I feel that I would benefit greatly from a training contract at Byrne Wallace, and I am would be keen to use my existing knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to add real value to the firm and become part of a universally respected team for many years to come.

I also feel the firm’s values are well aligned to my own, particularly the commitment to progression and the embracing of technology to better connect with clients. As Ireland is one of the fastest growing economies in the EU, and with a general increase in overall business confidence, Byrne Wallace is well placed to put these values into practice and take full advantage of the opportunities which follow from this growth. To be part of such a prestigious, well established firm during this era of renewed economic optimism would be exciting and challenging. Having had previous experience of working with demanding, high profile clients, I am drawn by the opportunity to work for some of Byrne Wallace’s biggest clients which includes public and private enterprises working in all key industry sectors.

As I am already a qualified legal professional with three years’ post-qualification experience, I am aware that I am eligible to qualify as a solicitor through the QLTT programme. I believe this would put me in the advantageous position of being able to commit more time to working in the firm as opposed to undertaking study and exams, which would therefore enable me to add more productively to the firm within a shorter period. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards,

Connor Cassidy