Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to apply for a trainee contract with Byrne Wallace. I graduated with a degree in Law & Economics from NUI Maynooth in 2011, and since then I have been working in financial services in Spain and in Mexico. I returned to Ireland last year and have been preparing for the FE1 exams while working as an Aviation Paralegal for Maples and Calder.

I wish to qualify as a commercial solicitor as it is a career where one needs to display both great attention to detail and analysis, as well as a high level of business acumen and awareness, these are all skills that I believe I possess. My time spent working as a paralegal at Maples and Calder confirmed my convictions that I want to qualify as a commercial solicitor.

I am drawn to Byrne Wallace because the firm has a reputation of providing an excellent programme to trainees, involving significant exposure to large transactions and complex issues, and because I believe that I can reach my long-term objectives at the firm, beyond my traineeship. The firm has a number of industry leading departments, such as life sciences and technology, which means there are various sectors where one can become a leading solicitor surrounded by excellent peers. It is a firm that isn’t resting on its laurels and continues to grow and excel, as evidenced by the fact that the firm was awarded the Chambers Europe Ireland Client Service Award 2017.

I have taken a different path to most to reach this point. Due to y love of travelling and desire to be challenged, upon graduating from University, I decided that I wanted to learn a new language, and as the Irish economy was performing poorly in 2011, it was the perfect time to move abroad. I lived in Madrid for two years, and from there moved to Mexico City where I lived for three years. While in Mexico, as well as my job working in financial services, on a voluntary basis I became the founder of the Irish Mexican Chamber of Commerce. This was an enthralling experience which entailed working side by side with the Irish Ambassador and senior business figures in Mexico. I learned an incredible amount from working with these people. Upon returning to Ireland, I worked in the aviation team at Maples and Calder as a Paralegal. This was another great experience where I learned the importance of attention to detail and the ability to manage simultaneous competing deadlines. This work taught me how important it is to be organised and to maintain 100% focus all day long.

I hope that you will find my CV to display the skills I have learned while working in different industries in different countries. I believe my previous work experience lends itself well to the work of a legal professional. I have the necessary skills and drive to forge a successful career as a commercial solicitor, and I hope to do so at Byrne Wallace.

Kind regards

Conor Hennessy