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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you for the purpose of applying for the training programme taking place in September 2023. My ambition to participate in the training programme at your highly respected firm is reflected in my education, my commitment to complete professional examinations, my ability to upskill personally and professionally as well as my work experience both before and during my time at MHC.

My interest in becoming a solicitor first arose while I attended Belvedere College for secondary school. Among many other co-curricular activities that I engaged in during my time there, I particularly enjoyed debating. I competed in many Leinster debating competitions and even had the opportunity to organise a Leinster Mace competition. I was also honoured to be chosen, due to my debating pursuits, to represent Ireland at the Model European Parliament in Copenhagen in 2016. Collectively, these debating pursuits along with my curricular education informed my decision to study law, as my interest in developing my critical thinking and analytical skills first began to blossom.

Following my completion of the Leaving Certificate, I was delighted to accept an offer to study Economics, Politics and Law at DCU. I felt that this course suited me best, as while I was keen to study law, I was aware of the significant advantage that a multi-disciplinary degree like this could provide me, as I learned to constantly look at problems from multiple perspectives. Once the opportunity presented itself, I chose to continue my studies in my final two years in this course with an increased amount of law modules. Although this degree was not solely a law degree, I covered all aspects of law examined by the FE1s while participating in this course. This was further proven by my ability to complete FE1 examinations just a few months after I graduated from DCU. My ambition to work in the legal sector deepened during my time at DCU because of what I learnt in the course of my studies and the guest lecturers who spoke to me about their involvement in the sector. It was at this point I first decided to pursue a career as a commercial law solicitor as I became more aware of the business element of law and expanded my knowledge of the number of sectors within commercial law which were appealing to me.

Following my graduation from DCU, I accepted an offer to complete a Masters of Laws (LL.M.) postgraduate degree at Trinity College Dublin. In the course of my Master's degree, I studied a range of commercial law modules including Aviation, Data Protection, Patent law, Media Regulation, EU state aid law and Copyright law. I had the great privilege to have lecturers who are at the top of their respective fields as well as many guest lectures from industry experts. I gained further insight into a wide variety of commercial legal sectors during my studies and the course's continued commitment to combining both theory and practice in its teaching has benefitted me hugely in the work I have undertaken so far in the legal sector. In addition to these taught modules, I also authored a Dissertation on the topic of Direct Provision and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the course of my master's degree. While this presented somewhat of a different

challenge to the rest of the modules, writing a dissertation taught me a lot about legal research and time management in the completion of a project with a deadline. In conjunction with my postgraduate study, I passed six Fe1 examinations and completed the final two exams while working, which further demonstrates my determination to secure a training contract.

As demonstrated, I have studied law diligently for some time. In addition to my education, I have gained invaluable experience through the work that I have undertaken. During my undergraduate degree, I gained extensive experience as an administrative assistant in an accountancy firm and have developed many skills which I believe I could utilise to assist your firm in its day-to-day operations. I have met many high-pressure deadlines during my time at SVCO and have gained proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Teams, and PowerPoint as well as Zoom and Outlook.

During my postgraduate degree, I was fortunate to receive a job offer as a legal assistant in MHC with the Legal Projects team, within the Financial Services department. In this team, I was involved with several high-profile projects and the skills and experience that I have gained translate directly to the type of work that a trainee might engage in. This role mostly involved projects related to several of the large loan sales which MHC has assisted with. This position required me to upskill my knowledge and understanding of securities and real estate law. In addition, I had a large involvement in further assurance projects which our team were responsible for. One of my main responsibilities in this respect was to progress various applications through the PRAI which required in-depth knowledge of real estate and general property law as I was required to draft and lodge various applications. Knowledge of company and liquidation law was also essential as many of our clients used SPVs in their portfolio management.

Following the conclusion of two of the larger loan sales in which I was involved in Mason Hayes & Curran, I felt it was a good time to seek out different opportunities within the firm which could provide me with a broader experience in legal practice areas. I promptly received an offer to work as a legal assistant within the Health & Prosecutions team and was delighted to join a team in which I could experience a very different side of the legal profession. The work I am tasked with in the H&P team could not be more different from my previous role due to the litigious nature of this H&P, I am delighted at this prospect as I strongly believe that the best way to develop professionally and personally is to face challenges head-on and constantly seek to step out of my comfort zone. Within the H&P team, I aid the fee earners in Special Care cases in the High Court, as well as RTB cases in the district court. My responsibilities include the preparation of draft orders and the supplemental documentation required to accompany them. I am also tasked with lodging various documents with various court offices around the city, as well as attending hearings and meetings and taking notes. My current role has encouraged me to apply to Byrne Wallace as I believe securing a trainee position at your firm would allow me to do a seat in childcare law.

I feel very grateful to MHC for having afforded me such a wide-ranging experience in the legal sector so early in my career. One of the most beneficial aspects of my experience to date is its rounded nature, having worked in a financial services & a litigation department. I am determined to continue gaining a rounded experience while training as a solicitor and Byrne Wallace offers a wide range of practice areas that can allow me to continue to do so. Additionally, I am confident that Byrne Wallace encapsulates and represents the values that I identify with personally. The commitment shown by Byrne Wallace to contributing to & raising funds for charities and also the concern shown for the environment in particular, come to mind.

I am an exceptionally hard-working individual having performed highly and hit targets and deadlines both inside and outside of college, while also having balanced a wide variety of jobs with the demands of my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. To provide an example, I have provided professionalism and integrity in my role in Mason Hayes & Curran whilst completing my postgraduate degree and FE1s these last few months. Personally, I am a self-starter with vast experience of meeting deadlines of my own accord. I am a diligent and detail-oriented person with effective communication skills, allowing me to work seamlessly in a team. Where weaknesses have been pointed out to me in the past, I have shown initiative by seeking out avenues through

which I can improve. For example, having been told that I would have to upskill my commercial awareness in order to work in a commercial law firm, I sought out and completed a certificate in commercial awareness in the legal sector.

Bearing all of this in mind, I would be delighted if you would consider me for the traineeship at Byrne Wallace. If you have any further questions regarding my application please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address or mobile number.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Henry