

ByrneWallace,  
88 Harcourt Street,  
Dublin 2.

15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Re: Application for a Training Contract**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to apply for a position as a trainee solicitor at ByrneWallace, to commence PPC I in September 2019. I am a graduate of Law and German from Trinity College Dublin and since graduating in 2012 I have worked in a criminal defence firm of solicitors in Dublin and subsequently as Visa and Policy Officer at the Embassy of Ireland, Berlin. I am currently studying towards an LL.M. at the University of Cape Town and have recently taken up work here alongside my studies.

My two years working in a criminal practice saw me take on responsibility for all aspects of criminal defence litigation before the Superior Courts, working alone as well as in conjunction with colleagues and counsel. I had carriage of matters, often with multiple co-accused, from sending forward from the District Court through trial or sentence. After deciding to move abroad and gain experience in a different field, I moved Berlin, eventually taking up a position at the Irish Embassy there. This was an extremely eventful period at the Embassy, with bilateral relations assuming a new importance in the wake of the Brexit vote. Some of my work subsequently became part of the comprehensive review of relations with Germany, published in April this year.

In the years since graduating I have gained experience in various professional settings in Ireland and abroad, giving me a wide range of skills and insights upon which to draw as I work towards qualification as a solicitor. My legal experience covers a wide variety of cases, regularly dealing directly with clients and remaining alert to their needs. I have also learned the importance of attention to detail and gained an ability to work under pressure on time-sensitive projects. I am eager to continue to develop professionally and adapt to new challenges. I gained considerable experience working in criminal law and enjoyed the challenges posed by working in that field, in particular the regular dealings with clients and need to prepare for new matters at short notice. My decision to return to university for a masters qualification was motivated by a desire to acquire a theoretical understanding of issues already encountered in a professional setting. However, I have decided to qualify in a full service firm, gaining exposure to a wider range of practice areas. In this respect, I am drawn to ByrneWallace in light of its record of excellence and broad spectrum of practice, covering all principal areas of Irish law.

In light of my previous experience in a variety of professional environments, I am adaptable and although self-motivated, I excel in a collaborative, team environment. I believe that ByrneWallace is the right place for me to qualify as a

solicitor and given my previous experience I think that I have the right mix of skills in communication, research and writing. The firm's wide range of practice areas, and indeed its international outlook, make for a promising and challenging working environment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,  
Conor McGreevy