4 Bellavista,

Highfield Avenue,

Cork.

(087) 3819728

20 October 2017

Crona McLoughlin

HR Manager,

ByrneWallace

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2.

Dear Ms. McLoughlin,

My name is Denis O’ Farrell. I am a final year law student (BCL) in University College Cork. I am writing to you to apply for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme. I expect to graduate in October 2018 and hope to do so with a first class honours degree.

I am interested in becoming a trainee in Byrne Wallace for a number of reasons.

The primary motivating factor is professional excellence. I wish to work in a highly professional firm in which I am challenged every single day. Byrne Wallace provides this through their well-structured training programme focussed on developing your legal knowledge, skills with commercial awareness. The firm has an award winning client service approach and this focus strikes me as the correct way to do business.

When I consider the specialisations of Byrne Wallace, I believe it fits well with my own career goals. I have a particular interest in banking and financing, property and company law and these are areas which I believe Byrne Wallace are leaders. In addition, my interest in information technology is piqued by Byrne Wallace’s clear focus on embracing technology.

Thirdly, adaptability - both in the education offered and the firm's own innovation. The national and international nature of the Byrne Wallace’s work, with strategic links across three locations, provides a universal education spanning across jurisdictions. In an increasingly globalised business world, it is vital that a lawyer has the adaptability to move across jurisdictions. Byrne Wallace’s embracement of the international links while also being focussed on conducting itself within Ireland means that they are a step above the competition in the areas which appeal to me.

Finally, corporate responsibility is key. Having worked with the Free Legal Advice Centre, I have grown to understand the importance of lawyers utilising their skills to help those in their community and beyond. Byrne Wallace clearly excel in this regard, embracing the principle of integrity, with a long standing commitment to supporting charitable organisation beyond simply donating. The unique relationship with St John of God, in particular, strikes me as a genuinely wonderful idea. It is clear that Byrne Wallace recognises its position of influence and maximises this, showing an understanding of the firm's position in the local community.

I believe I am an excellent candidate for the position for a number of reasons. I am an innately hard working and motivated individual. Throughout my studies, I have been working at least three full days and two half days on our farm. I have also maintained a successful sporting career. There is an obvious applicability of this willingness to work to a career in corporate law. Through sports, I have become a natural leader which is vital for a team-based approach to corporate life. It has also furthered my ability to deal with pressured situations and communicate effectively regardless of the circumstances.

I have grown up surrounded by business – for better or for worse! From an early age, I have been conscious of global commercial factors which would influence our farm: increase in fuel prices, currency values and trade levies. These are issues about which I have daily conversations, and are factored into our business planning. I am a definitive outlier amongst my friends in that Newstalk is my radio station of choice; any time spent procrastinating is generally done browsing the Irish Times website.

Furthermore, through my time over the summer, I have seen the more applicable benefit of this broad commercial awareness in that any issues which clients present must be viewed in the backdrop of the current market. The most obvious example of this was a client who had waited, on the advice of the firm, through the recession to sell their golf club for development – a strategic decision which showed an awareness of the current market. My time in these firms has allowed me to expand, but also apply, my broader knowledge of commerce and I believe this makes me an invaluable asset in a corporate firm – particularly in Byrne Wallace.

Excellent communication is key for a number of reasons in corporate law. Building client relationships, explaining solutions and working in a modern firm all require clear communication. I have spent many years on stage with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and several years debating with my school. This has been further developed further through my training at RDJ and regular client interaction at Murphy Lynam. Byrne Wallace has a definitive focus on client engagement and as such, my ability to communicate in a clear, personable manner would be a great addition to the team.

In addition to a strong intellectual ability, which is an obvious skill necessary, I have a close attention to detail. Honed through the Cork Online Law Review, I am confident in my ability to notice particular details in any document – a skill which is vital when reviewing legal documents. In addition to a wider commercial awareness developed from years in business I believe this skill can lead to a better or fuller understanding of issues and, as a result, the correct solution in a corporate law firm.

In conclusion, I wish to re-iterate my interest in the position. I look forward to meeting you in the near future!

Yours sincerely,

Denis O’Farrell

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