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30th September 2019

**Ciara Loftus
HR Manager
ByrneWallace
88 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2**

RE: Trainee Solicitor Programme

Dear Ms Loftus,

I am writing to you to apply for a position in the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

I am a law graduate with a strong academic record, having obtained a First-Class Honours Bachelor of Laws degree from Maynooth University in 2017. I have also recently completed a Master of Laws degree in European Law from the University of Edinburgh, having been awarded an academic scholarship by the University's Law School.

Whilst I am proud of my academic record, I believe that it is my practical outlook – together with my work ethic and my organisational, communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills – that brings most value to my profile as a prospective lawyer. Between my undergraduate and postgraduate studies, I fulfilled a versatile role in a busy and fast-paced general practice firm, developing my knowledge across a range of legal areas and building my soft skills.

Throughout my studies, I worked part-time in various busy services industry positions, while also performing leading voluntary roles in a rich variety of organisations. Upon graduation from Maynooth University, I was awarded a university Extra-Curricular Activities Award along with my degree, in recognition of the active roles I played in several different college societies. My work and extra-curricular experience demonstrates my work ethic and record of commitment.

Many of my experiences have led me to work with peers from all around Europe and further afield, through my involvement with ELSA, the European Law Students' Association. I have led the organisation of projects such as the ELSA Maynooth International Negotiation Competition and the ELSA Ireland Law School 2017, a week-long academic, social and cultural programme for 50 law students from all around Europe, which took place in Dublin in August 2017.

In the course of these often complex projects, I have forged a track record of problem-solving skills and creativity, on many occasions having had to devise solutions to problems – such as last-minute cancellations or logistical issues – in pressurised circumstances, while managing communication with large groups of people.

I think these skills will translate well into my role as a commercial lawyer. I believe my record of hard work and creativity in both team and independent settings would make me a particularly good fit for ByrneWallace.

As requested, I enclose along with this letter my CV, which outlines my experiences to date in more detail and illustrates my record of commitment, teamwork and relationship-building, as well as my strong drive, motivation and work ethic.

I thank you for your time in considering my application. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to further demonstrate my suitability and potential as a ByrneWallace trainee in person.

Yours sincerely,

Dónal Merrick

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