**Dear recruiting manager,**

My name is Eddie O’Rourke and I am a final year law student in University College Cork. This is my application for a place in ByrneWallace’s traineeship programme. Originally from Killarney, County Kerry I am looking forward to exploring pastures new beyond Kerry and Cork.

Although nobody in my family has pursued a legal career I am adamant to be the first. Upon completion of my leaving cert in 2015 I fell short of the required CAO points to do law, so I decided, after the initial disappointment, to re-sit my leaving cert, and thankfully my persistence was rewarded the second time around. I’m three years into my law degree and feel like I am going from strength to strength, with my results correlating that, as they have improved each semester. I have no doubt I will be able to keep this momentum going and hopefully achieve a first-class honours grade in the final year. Momentum was the main factor in me deciding to do the three-year BCL course rather than the four-year course with the option of a year of study abroad or a year of study. I am coming off the back of a great summer, in which I spent eight weeks as a legal intern with Healy Crowley Ahern solicitors. I started my internship on the 2nd day of July and by its conclusion I genuinely had learned as much as I could’ve hoped to learn in a modest sized, country legal firm. In fact, I do believe I may have benefitted more from working with a small, local firm. I had unlimited access to the principal of the firm, Mr Colm Kelly, who became an excellent mentor to me. I am grateful to have been able to work with Healy Crowley Ahern for the length of time I did and to have the level of exposure that I had to the everyday workings of a solicitor. I actually had the added benefit of being able to pose my questions to and learn from two solicitors in two separate areas of law, one in criminal and one in more general practice, but specialising in conveyancing, probate and personal injury claims. I hope that that internship can be used as a stepping stone platform for myself, and that I can improve on my experience of legal working life with ByrneWallace in the near future.

 Naturally, as one of the top law firms in the country, ByrneWallace is an extremely attractive firm from a graduate’s point of view. I know that with ByrneWallace I will receive top quality training and support. I have been researching ByrneWallace, namely the traineeship offered, and was struck by how this training and support operated. The rotation system really intrigued me and seems like it is the best system in terms of learning, as it helps eliminate any monotony in the learning experience. Unlike many other firms, ByrneWallace offer trainees a Learning and Development programme. This programme, I feel, instils an environment of constant learning and bettering of oneself. I was also really enthused to hear that trainees are assigned supervising partners on each rotation. I myself work well by observational learning, and I am sure that the idea of putting partners and trainees in close proximity was to encourage such learning. This idea genuinely helped put me at ease knowing that if I did have a training contract with ByrneWallace I would have the facilities available to ask questions and seek help. The feedback and formal review’s I feel is a very constructive feature of ByrneWallaces traineeship. I think it would help guide me through the traineeship and help explain things I mightn’t be doing so well, and also point out things that I am doing well in and encourage me in that sense. By all accounts the traineeship is based on practical, hands-on learning and this really enthused me. It seems that trainees have a high level of involvement in the workings of the firm, apart from just learning.

 I am eager and excited at the prospect of hearing back from you all at ByrneWallace, and hopefully meeting you. Thank you for reading my cover letter, and enclosed is my curriculum vitae. If there are any queries about my CV, please feel free to contact me through the contact details I have provided below.

**Sincerely,**



**Eddie O’Rourke**