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To whom it may concern,

I include this covering letter as part of my training contract application. Should any questions be raised by anything in the C.V. or the following covering letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch using my included contact details.

By way of introduction, my name is Ellis Witcher and I am an aspiring solicitor seeking a training contract at this firm in pursuit of a career in commercial legal practice. I initially studied history as an Undergraduate in Trinity College Dublin, but converted into law through a Postgraduate Diploma in law, in pursuit of a challenging, intellectually stimulating career that would allow me to utilise the research, advocacy, and verbal reasoning skills I had developed over the course of my studies. I have also recently completed an LL.M at University College Dublin and am set to graduate this December with First Class Honours and an overall GPA of 4.0. As part of this, I undertook a variety of commercial and international law modules, and had a research focus on international legal and criminal law theory for my Masters thesis.

In addition to my academic achievements, I have accrued a range of skills and experiences that have well prepared me for a career in commercial legal practice. Following the completion of the law conversion course, I was employed as part of the in-house commercial litigation team in ESB-Networks during their high-profile defence of ESB in the Commercial High Court against University College Cork in an €18.5 million subrogated insurance claim. This was invaluable experience that exposed me to the pressures of high-profile litigation and afforded me the opportunity to shoulder considerable responsibility over the course of this 8 month trial. An aspect of this position I found particularly interesting was the commercial background that contextualised the case and how this influenced trial strategy for the plaintiff and the defendant. This added a layer of complexity to the legal issues themselves which I found deeply interesting and which sparked my interest in commercial legal practice. More recently, I have been employed as an intern in Eversheds' mortgage enforcement team. In this position I have had the opportunity to shoulder high levels of responsibility, early on managing my own caseload of files and instructing counsel in mortgage arrears proceedings in the Circuit Court. I have also had the opportunity to draft proceedings and replying affidavits. Additionally, this position has deepened my commercial awareness, and I have gained an insight into some of the commercial issues surrounding the Irish mortgage market.

I was drawn to the training contract offered by ByrneWallace initially because of how highly an undergraduate classmate of mine, who is a trainee at this firm, spoke of his experience here. In particular, he emphasised the quality of the training he has received at ByrneWallace, which he felt placed an emphasis on high levels of responsibility being taken by trainees early on, as well as the approachability of more senior members of the firm. From this I got a sense that ByrneWallace is characterised by an open and collaborative approach to training, which is precisely the kind of learning environment I hope to expose myself to as a trainee. In particular, I would hope to gain experience in the practices at ByrneWallace which support clients operating in the technology sector. In recent years, ByrneWallace has been developing a notable presence in this sector, particularly through data protection work. This is an area of the law which is of great interest to me, and which I covered extensively as part of my LL.M. In this regard, an opportunity to train at ByrneWallace would present me with the opportunity to expand on the knowledge gained through my studies with practical experience with leading professionals in this sector. It is these experiences I hope to open myself up to in applying to this firm.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss in person my qualifications and fit for this position, and in this regard please feel free to contact me using the above contact details.

Yours sincerely,

Ellis Witcher