**Garreth Sterio – Letter of Application – Byrne Wallace**

My name is Garreth Sterio and I am applying to your trainee solicitor programme. I am a 36 years old and have been working full time since I was 17, which is over half my life, bar a year off travelling and 9 months full time education. In this time, I have worked in the construction industry in many different roles for many different types of companies. I studied part-time to gain my qualifications for four years and then took time off to study full-time. I have always been a hard and diligent worker and this has been acknowleged in different forms. When I quit my job and left to go on full time study leave, the the owner of the company asked me to come back when I finished. In return he would give me a pay rise and would pay for my accomodation while I was abroad. When I went working as a contracting engineer/ manager (depending on the role) each company was expecting an experieced knowlegable person who could blend into their team seemlessly. This was not always easy especially when dealing in areas I had no major experince in, but I persrvered and in the majority of projects I worked on, I was ‘hired’ for longer periods than requested.

When the economic crash occurred I was eventually let go (along with a lot of the permeant staff). It was 3 days before my wedding and I had no job and no one was hiring contract staff. This left a bitter taste and I wanted a change. I was lucky to gain employment in a new small firm in the form of an administrative role. My wages were slashed to nearly a third, but if I wanted to stay in Ireland, this was the price.

I started a part time course in law in DIT, in the hope that it would lead to a better job. As the company grew (with my help) I was beginning to use my (albeit limited) legal knowledge to some effect in writing up terms on contacts, employment and letters discussing contract issues.

I enjoyed studying law and I wanted more of it. I decided to do the FE-1 exams and I hope to pass my final two exams in this October.

From observing the age of the majority of other people sitting the FE-1’s, I know that I am a lot older, however I still have a lot of hunger, drive and ambition. This is evident in my late night and weekend studying to the detriment of my young family. I also have a very busy and time consuming role at present and when I am not working late on projects, I stay behind and study (it is a lot quieter in the office). I have not given up and never lost faith in my own ability. I have made many mistakes, but have always learned from them. I have grown as a person and have learned to deal with people in many different circumstances and situations.

I feel that if I am given the opportunity of a traineeship that I will grow and learn quickly and become a part of your team that you will wish to employ full time.

I am sure you have read many of these and I hope that this was not too painful to read through!

Thank you for your time, and I hope to see you soon.

Kind Regards,

Garreth Sterio