5 Beechwood

Clarecastle

Co. Clare

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing as part of my application for a position on the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

Law is something that has engrossed me from a young age, evident through time spent working in Wallace Reidy Solicitors in Limerick during my school summers, and a month-long internship with Ronan Daly Jermyn Solicitors in Galway in the summer of 2014. Meanwhile, in May 2016, I joined First Derivatives plc. as a legal consultant. This has culminated in me spending eight months working as an ISDA Negotiator with Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong, while at the time of writing, I am in my fourth month as an ISDA Negotiator with Citibank in London.

My time as an ISDA Negotiator has seen me work within two Tier One Investment Banks with direct responsibility for the drafting and negotiation of financial contracts. My duties have involved me liaising with various banking departments and negotiating directly with clients, be they investment banks, hedge funds or corporates. This work has at times been quite challenging, be that due to the complex nature of ISDA agreements, difficulties associated with the negotiation of financial contracts with clients concerned solely with their own interests, or with ensuring the negotiation has been finalised and the agreement signed in line with industry margin reform deadlines. Despite these challenges, I have succeeded in developing strong analytical skills, learned to work in a pragmatic and adaptable manner and ensured my conduct never wavered from the professional standards expected of me.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working within the capital markets industry. It is has proven to be a considerable source of learning as I have been immersed in the corporate world, with real-life exposure to the world of business, while the opportunities to work abroad, experience new ways of living, and to meet and work with people from an array of nationalities and backgrounds, have been more crucial to my own development than I could ever have envisaged. Notwithstanding that, I am certain that training, and subsequently qualifying as a solicitor, is where my long-term future lies.

When I look at Byrne Wallace I see a firm at the forefront of the Irish legal sector. The many accolades won by Byrne Wallace recognising your exemplary professional and service standards, and your evident passion for exceeding client expectations is something that greatly appeals to me. I believe one needs to take great pride in the work they perform, while without a strong client base, the firm is nothing. I apply immensely high standards to my work, while my experience in both the legal and retail world means I am no stranger to going above and beyond a client’s expectations.

While it is necessary to commit absolutely to the work one is performing, an emphasis on a ‘life’ aspect is also essential, and is something which appears to be held in great regard with Byrne Wallace. From taking a look at your website and from reading Trainee testimonials it becomes clear that Byrne Wallace is a firm that cares about its employees. Having a keen interest in sport and fitness, the emphasis on such by Byrne Wallace is another major reason why I see my future with your firm.

As a final point, having worked in the business world on an international basis the past 18 months, I appreciate the value that working on such a platform brings to an individual and a firm. Byrne Wallace’s expertise in areas such as Brexit, banking and capital markets, combined with your presence internationally is why I am left with no doubt that Byrne Wallace is the correct firm for me. I can also assuredly state that given the opportunity to meet me, you will be left with no doubt that I am the correct fit for your firm.

As specified, I am currently positioned in London, however I would be available to return for interview should you require.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Sweeney