22 October 2015

**Trainee Solicitor**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for the above position advertised on your website. In October 2014 I graduated from the National University of Ireland, Galway with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) postgraduate degree. I obtained my undergraduate Bachelor of Corporate Law International (Honours) degree from the same institution. As part of my undergraduate degree I studied legal French and I spent a year studying and living in Aix-en-Provence, France as part of my Erasmus year. I obtained a French honours diploma from the Institut d'études politiques d'Aix-en-Provence during that year. While studying in France I gained both a passion and interest in European languages, culture and history.

I returned to France in October 2014 where I worked as a language assistant and I taught English to secondary school students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The work was quiet demanding as it was often challenging to maintain class discipline. I was fortunate to work with a dedicated teaching team. We prepared detailed lessons plans in advance of all scheduled teaching events and we discussed best practice in terms of getting students to engage with the relevant subject matter. I assisted the language teachers in translating French words and phrases and explained the definition of words and difficult terms to students through French. I was an active member of the oral examination panel for students in the Mulhouse area. Additionally, I assisted teachers in marking examinations.

While studying at NUI Galway I was involved in a number of clubs and societies. I volunteered in the Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) at the university assisting individuals who would not otherwise be able to access legal services. My time in FLAC gave me a real insight into the challenging environment and the work load of a busy legal professional.

I have just completed my teaching contract in France and I am eager to commence my legal career. I have just completed the first four of the FE1 exams this September and I intend to complete the final four exams in March 2016. I would relish the opportunity to gain both a good knowledge of your firm and relevant experience within a firm such as Byrne Wallace Solicitors.

I feel that I can contribute effectively towards the work of your firm. I have gained valuable skills from my employment experiences to date which would benefit your firm. I realise that the workload will be demanding and challenging but I look forward to meeting these challenges with enthusiasm.

I would like to thank you for giving my application due consideration. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. In the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Katherine Durcan