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Cover Letter of Application to Traineeship Programme

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to submit my application for the ByrneWallace traineeship programme as advertised on the firm's website. Here, I shall elaborate on my motivation for pursuing a position as a ByrneWallace trainee, and upon why I believe I would be well suited to the firm's work culture.

I'm enthused by ByrneWallace's progressive ethos, both in terms of its social initiatives to become one of the first firms in Ireland to reach parity between genders in its cohort of partners, and the progressive business model in seeking commercial opportunities at the intersection of law and technology.

I've written extensively legal technology for Irish Legal News, and have developed a keen interest in the area. I had the pleasure of interviewing Noah Waisberg, the CEO of legal AI firm Kira Systems, and was fascinated by the transformational potential of artificial intelligence in the law sector. I've interviewed Mason, Hayes and Curran's Mark Adair on the legal sector's response to new challenges posed by the GDPR and changing global policy on net neutrality. I've also written a profile on Jennifer Hourihane, the head of Irish legal tech start-up Oathello, and gained an insight into the potential for social technology to revolutionise how the legal sector operates.

I firmly believe that the legal sector's future growth will depend upon its ability to taken advantage of the opportunities posed by new technologies. For the reason, I'm very much drawn by ByrneWallace's reputation for excellence in this area, in particular its status as the premier Irish firm for data protection services, and its use of technological solutions to meet clients' legal needs. This is further evinced by the firm's sponsorship of this year's Annual Technology Ireland Industry Awards. I share ByrneWallace's conviction that the future success of the legal sector will be predicated on its embrace of technology, and I want to pursue a traineeship programme with a firm with this ethos.

I have enumerated on some of the reasons why I am drawn to a traineeship at ByrneWallace. Now, I hope to persuade the reader of my own aptitude and suitability to the traineeship.

Robust Work Ethic

Through both my academic and working life, I have demonstrated a well-honed work ethic and a firm commitment to building a career in the law. Throughout the past year, I have successfully balanced my full-time employment with the Personal Injuries Assessment Board, my part-time employment with Irish Legal News, and my evening classes at Griffith College, working in excess of 12 hours a day. Likewise, throughout my time at university, I demonstrated a passion for my studies that went beyond the curriculum. I became the first student on the English Law programme to be admitted to study Scottish law modules. During my second-year, I taught myself public international law in order to compete in the Telders competition. If accepted, I will bring to the traineeship a proven ability to work hard for long hours and to go beyond the mere requirements to make the absolute best of this opportunity.

Adept at Teamwork

My aptitude for teamwork can be evinced by my success in the 37th Telders International Law Moot Court Competition. We were the first Dundee University team to compete in the Telders for 33 years. As such, we did not receive any support from the University. We raised the funds for entrance fee ourselves by appealing to Scottish law firms. Whereas other teams were permitted to take part in the Telders as a university module, we participated on an entirely extra-curricular basis. From the start, we were waylaid with adversities. Of the original team of four, two participants dropped out the week before the memorandums were to be submitted. To remain in the competition, myself and my remaining teammate completed both sets of 45 page memorandums in a week. Having found new teammates, we were once again struck by misfortune, when one of our teammates, an Indian national, was denied entry to the Netherlands a week before the moot court competition began. By way of contingency plan, we redistributed the mooting work so that took turns to present our former teammates arguments. Despite these adversities, our team was awarded the Outstanding Team Award. I would bring this proven aptitude for teamwork to the traineeship.

Highly Organised, Personal Initiative

I demonstrated excellent organisation skills, relationship management skills, and time management skills as Deputy President of Dundee University Students' Association in organising the Student Led Teaching Awards, a black tie event which is one of the highlights of the academic calendar. I have enumerated upon this experience under the Additional Experience and Skills section. This experience demonstrates my ability to executed complex long-term plans, without prior experience, by working diligently with determination to make a success of the challenge before me. If given the opportunity, I would apply this ethos to the traineeship.

It is my sincere hope that I have persuaded you of my suitability for a position on your traineeship programme. I'd be thrilled to take part in such an outstanding, forward-thinking firm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Burns