To whom it may concern,

I am a 2014 graduate from the University of Limerick with a first class honours Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Human Rights in Criminal Justice. My primary degree was Law and European Studies in the University of Limerick. My goal is to become a practicing solicitor. To this end I have sat 4 out of the 8 FE1 exams this October. If successful in these initial 4, I intend to sit the final 4 in the Spring sitting.

I believe my educational background and experience has me well prepared for this position. I hold a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in Law and European Studies which was my undergraduate degree and was conferred upon my by the University of Limerick. I chose to take Spanish up as a new language for my undergraduate. This proved to be a lot more challenging than I had anticipated. As a result, my law grades suffered. I felt that the degree level I had achieved did not reflect my capability. I approached my university saying the same. They acknowledged that my law grades were consistently substantially higher than my Spanish grades. They told me that if I did a few law modules for a year and I impressed them sufficiently in these modules then they would be prepared to offer me a place on the LLM programme that I wanted. I received a first class honours in the modules. I was then offered the place on the LLM and I chose to advance my studies. I graduated in 2014 from the University of Limerick with a Master of Laws (LLM) first class honours in Human Rights in Criminal Justice. I was satisfied that I had finally achieved a grade which reflected my capability. I believe that this demonstrates my tenacity and my determination to succeed and I now bring these qualities to whatever task I have set for me.

In terms of my work history, I returned from teaching English in Korea in April. I have now worked and lived in Ireland, Germany, Argentina and South Korea. Working in Korea was probably the greatest test of my adaptability I have faced. The working ethos was completely different in Korea to what a lot of 'Westerners' had become accustomed to and it often left 'Westerners' shocked at how hard the Koreans worked and expected us to work. I had no difficulty in adjusting and feel that the experience has made me a much better worker. I believe that as a result of my diverse working background that I am now completely comfortable with successfully integrating into any team and working toward success. I am currently working in a solicitor’s office in my hometown. Working in this office has been fantastic in terms of experience. I was warned that I was starting close to a few important high court cases and that it would be 'a baptism of fire'. This did not phase me and I was eager to get started as quickly as possible. I was subsequently commended on how quickly and how well I had adapted. I have mainly been working in litigation although I have also worked on family law, company law, conveyancing and probate. I have become extremely comfortable with the office software and procedure used for dealing with cases. Whilst working here I have been given huge freedom when corresponding with clients, other solicitors, experts and counsel (junior and senior). I have learned quickly the intricacies involved in communicating with the various groups and I can say that I am quite comfortable in communicating on behalf of my office.

I always knew that once I got to the Traineeship stage that I wanted to do it with a firm with an excellent reputation. I began researching the various firms and I spoke to people I knew at each one. I spoke to a few people who I went to college with who are now working at Byrne Wallace and I asked them about their experiences there. They had extremely positive things to say and they also said that they think specifically that I would really enjoy myself there. When I heard this I became more interested in Byrne Wallace and I began to research the company more. I began looking into the partners there and the numerous lawyer profiles and their individual career histories which of course were very impressive. I believe that a Traineeship with Byrne Wallace would be the perfect place for me to learn and grow under excellent guidance into a top solicitor whilst also being a valuable asset to the firm. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest kind convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Kristofer O’Shea