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Trainee Solicitor Programme 2021

Dear Graduate Recruitment Manager,

I am writing to you with the hope of being considered for a place on the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme 2021. Following the completion of my undergraduate degree in Film and Media Studies, I completed a two-year postgraduate LLB Degree at University College Cork in October 2019 and wholeheartedly began pursuing a career in commercial law. I currently work as a Legal Case Reviewer with Allied Irish Bank's Financial Solutions Group and I am due to undertake my final FE1 exam in early November 2020. Having taken this slightly unorthodox route to a career in law, I feel this has benefited me as it is not a career that I have simply fallen into. It is a decision I have given serious consideration to and a variety of legal work experiences have helped in this regard.

In my time spent researching the firm at which I would like to complete my training, ByrneWallace stood out to me for a number of reasons. In particular, the firm's cutting-edge Technology practice appealed to my own passion for technology and IP law, nurtured during an internship at Trinity College's ADAPT Research Centre and during my undergraduate degree. The firm's reputation as a leading advisor in both the national and international legal tech sector demonstrates to me that an important emphasis is placed on this practice area. As I have mentioned, I have great personal interest in the tech sector particularly since completing an intellectual property internship at the ADAPT Research Centre in Trinity College Dublin last summer. My work gave me an in-depth view into the importance of IP to a business or organization as I worked closely with the Intellectual Property team, reviewing standard form contracts and developing a keen interest in copyright law. Protecting and managing such an asset can mean the difference between success and failure. I find it fascinating that it comes into play without a need for registration and the impact this can have on commercial negotiations. I would cherish the opportunity to gain more practical experience in this area and believe that I would gain the best quality experience at ByrneWallace. The firm's broad expertise as well as a willingness to embrace legal tech really appeals to me and I would love to train with a firm that has an eye to the future.

ByrneWallace, as a legal firm, has an established and brilliant reputation and it is readily apparent that a culture of excellence has been nurtured at the firm, since its foundation. In my own experience, both professionally and personally, my undergraduate degree has aided me in taking a creative approach to my work, while employing the problem-solving skills and technical proficiency required when dealing with legal issues. I believe that my undergraduate degree, as well as my LLB, have aided me in developing a well-rounded skillset and an open mind. I have approached my study of the law with the utmost enthusiasm and graduated with an overall grade of 69% in my LLB. I continued in my studies upon completion, sitting and passing seven of the eight FE-1 examinations over two sittings, with the eighth postponed due to COVID-19. Working in a law firm gave me first-hand experience of the role of a solicitor and the tasks of a trainee solicitor. In my present job, I work closely with our Legal department on a daily basis which has given me an insight into areas such as Contract Law, Financial Services Regulation and Insolvency Law. These are practice areas I would love to gain more practical experience in, especially with the calibre of work I would be exposed to in ByrneWallace.

Further, the emphasis on pushing yourself and stepping out of your comfort zone in a supportive environment appeals to me and I enjoy pushing myself to try something new. During the last number of years, I have endeavored to work in a variety of environments challenging myself to reach commission deadlines in sales on the shop floor of Brown Thomas to assisting trainee solicitors during my internship with a corporate commercial law firm. Each of these job opportunities gave me the chance

to expand my capabilities. I have always maintained a part-time or full-time role during my studies while remaining consistent with my academic results. Most recently in March, I studied for 4 FE1s while working in my full-time position with AIB. This has also enabled me to perfect my prioritisation and time management skills which will be invaluable to me in the fast-paced and high-pressure environment of a commercial law firm.

Reading about the SOLAS project and the pro bono opportunities available, underlines to me that ByrneWallace is a firm that places on emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility. Being so involved with MS Ireland myself, I strongly believe that making a positive contribution to the community in which you work widens your perspective and allows you to become the best and most well-rounded professional you can be.

With this impression of ByrneWallace as a firm, I feel as though it is somewhere I could thrive and really contribute to in a positive way.

With the above information and my CV, I would be grateful if you would consider me for an interview for this programme. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,
Laura McGrath