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ByrneWallace

88 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2

D02 DK18

18th October 2018

Dear ByrneWallace,

I believe that with my personality and my skills I can bring a lot to a traineeship with ByrneWallace.

As someone who was reared in a household with a passion for lively debate on topical issues, I have always enjoyed dialectic. My undergraduate studies in Political Science and Geography offered plenty of opportunity in this area. I developed strong critical and analytical skills through response papers, debating, presentations and essays. I was exposed to many different viewpoints and developed an ability to quickly analyse different sources and to create a coherent and convincing argument. I was further exposed to new ideas and viewpoints on my Erasmus exchange in Prague, which allowed me to better understand the world from outside the English-speaking milieu.

I want to join a firm “driven to achieve excellence in everything that we do”. I can demonstrate a commitment to continuous self-improvement. In school, I skipped transition year for various reasons. I did not want to miss out on the Gaisce programme so, in 5th year, I went for the awards independently of the school. A strong swimmer, I volunteered as an assistant swimming coach at my local pool, helping 10-12 year olds improve their techniques; for developing a new skill, I learned to play drums (not exactly a popular choice at home!); and the endurance test was a 15 km hill walk.

My academic studies showed a steady improvement from a modest Leaving Certificate result through a 2.1. at TCD and a 1.1 in my Diploma in Law. My BA result was particularly satisfying as I was involved in so many other activities, being elected class representative for two consecutive years; being nominated as a committee member (and librarian) of the Geography Society; raising funds through “Jailbreak” for the Vincent de Paul and Amnesty International; mentoring new students; and co-hosting a weekly radio programme on TrinityFM.

I want to be the best commercial lawyer I can be. Since graduating, I have undertaken further education. I am currently studying for the King’s Inns Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, and also for the Law Society’s Certificate in Commercial Contract. This year I became an accredited mediator.

I have always been driven by a desire to make a difference. I am especially proud of two initiatives at TCD, each of which continues to this day. One was reviving the Geography Society’s defunct journal, *Atlas,* which had showcased members’ best written work for 55 years. I sourced funding and contributors, edited and proofed the articles (a steep learning curve as I had no previous editing experience), and ensured consistency of referencing style. I appointed an editorial team to produce an online version of the journal, commission artwork for the front cover, and eventually produce and launch 100 copies. *Atlas* has been published every year since.

The other was when, as a volunteer S2S student mentor for 25 first year students, I introduced a scheduled weekly meet-up at the Geography Society library. These informal meetings were great for helping new members to make friends in a friendly and casual environment. I made many lifelong friends from these experiences and I recently had the opportunity to attend one these meet-ups! These two modest legacies to my college give me great pleasure. It is things like this which motivate me.

My five years of voluntary part-time service in the Army Reserve were rewarding. Challenging military exercises aimed to build strength and resilience, confidence and adaptability. In addition, teamwork was central to everything that we did. I have developed qualities and skills that I know will carry into working as a solicitor in a top tier firm.

There are so many things that appeal to me about ByrneWallace. Being the first large Irish law firm to be certified with ISO 27001 says a lot about the firm’s rigorous practice standards and client service. As somebody who is ‘tech savvy’, ByrneWallace’s embracing of the latest technology is a big selling point, as is the long view of the firm in establishing the Business Forum to examine the business community’s role in delivering the Government’s objectives for *Project Ireland 2040.* Another significant appeal is that, in the words of a trainee, “Trainee solicitors are encouraged to mould their own experience and seek work in areas that interests them.”

Thank you for reading this. I hope you will give me the opportunity at interview to convince you that hiring me would be a good decision by ByrneWallace.

Yours truly,

Luke Scully