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14/10/2024

To whom it may concern,

I’m applying for the ByrneWallace trainee programme. I graduated from Law (BCL) in UCD in 2023, achieving First Class Honours (1.1) as my degree result. I subsequently pursued an LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law in TCD from 2023-2024 where I attained a high 2.1 (68%). I have completed 5/8 of the FE-1s, while pursuing my LLM. I am now awaiting results for a further two FE-1s. I will sit the remaining FE-1 in Company Law in March 2024.

I believe being a trainee in ByrneWallace would provide an impressive and well consolidated foundation for a future legal career as a solicitor and would ensure a tangible engagement with the real-world of law. ByrneWallace’s varied top-tier awards and the numerous high profile clients that it advises indicates the prominence and professional expertise of the Firm. During my time as an intern and subsequently as a paralegal in the Firm, I also was highly impressed by the collegiality and approachability of everyone that I worked with. These are added factors that motivated me to apply for the traineeship.

A career in a commercial law firm such as ByrneWallace appeals to me on account of how it rewards commitment, intellectual rigor and curiosity regarding a dynamic legal landscape. The law is something which is never set in stone. It’s the challenge to fashion comprehensive advice for commercial clients in a manner which can be easily understood by them, while keeping abreast of any changes in the legal arena, which makes a career in law appealing and exciting to me. This was impressed upon me during my time in ByrneWallace as an intern and paralegal in terms of changes to how personal data can be transferred from the EU to US on account of the recent EU-US Data Privacy Framework and what impacts this might have on advice to clients going ahead.

The combination of creative problem resolution, maintaining commercial awareness and working as a team consolidates my desire for a career in law. A commercial law firm puts one at the centre of the above and allows direct engagement with any legal developments, which could impact a client's interests. Being in a commercial law firm also allows one to be at the forefront of fashioning substantive and well-reasoned legal advice for high-profile clients. The need to continually keep a finger on the pulse of the commercial field also ensures that it's a career which rewards adaptability. This was also impressed upon me when completing Matheson’s Virtual Experience Programme.

A concept I developed with the Oncology Department of the Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre relating to capacity and consent to systemic anti-cancer therapy was accepted for an oral presentation and presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the European Society of Medical Oncology / European Oncology Nursing Society. This highlights my ability to analyse a situation, gather information, collaborate and deliver a result.

Some of my key personal skills include conscientiousness, taking initiative, close attention to detail as well as intellectual rigour. This is apparent from my undergrad and postgrad degree results in addition to my prior legal experience in ByrneWallace and McGarr Solicitors. I can also combine working as a team member with the capacity for independent research, as demonstrated in my prior legal experience.

My personal attributes and achievements demonstrate my suitability as a trainee in ByrneWallace and the varied ways in which I can offer much to the Firm.

Your sincerely,

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Maitiú Breathnach.