**Michael Holland Cover Letter for Byrne Wallace**

Byrne Wallace is, in my opinion, the most innovative, forward moving and competitive corporate law firms in Ireland today. The dynamic culture and highly respected reputation the firm exudes is a huge influence for graduates like me to apply. This year Byrne Wallace was advisor to Irelands Deal of the Year between Trilogy Technology Group acquiring Zonopy Security and, from my understand this is the third consecutive year the firm has been recognized as advising one of Irelands Deals of the Year. This achievement speaks for itself and cements the firm’s reputation as a major player in the corporate law industry which greatly appeals to my ambitious nature. The firm also presents the opportunity for graduates to become exposed to a wide range of practice areas through rotations such as Corporate, Funds and Consumer law just to name a few. This wide exposure is a massive incentive for graduates as it allows them to truly find their calling by the end of the traineeship. The motivating environment that Byrne Wallace operate, greatly appeals to my highly motivated nature. I see Byrne Wallace as the perfect firm to apply the knowledge I have ascertained throughout my time in university in a meaning and useful manner.

My passion to pursue a career in a corporate law firm derives from my interests in both business and law. While studying ‘Business Studies’ for the Leaving Certificate I became increasingly interested in the law aspect of the subject including Contract, Consumer and Employment Law. I also had a considerable interest in business from both school subjects (Business and Economics) and through my father’s ownership of businesses which I had the privilege of seeing how they develop and operate from the inside out. It was clear to me early on that my first CAO choice was to be Business and Law at UCD. Throughout my first two years in UCD I achieved higher grades in law than in business studies as this was where my talent began to surface. I then sought a six-week internship in EFC solicitors after which I realized a career in law may be for me. The problem solution approach to law perfectly suited my personality and work ethic. Although I liked working in the Litigation department, I found the Corporate Law department combined my knowledge of both business and law modules at college and this I thoroughly enjoyed. Speaking to trainee solicitors I personally know and at graduate fairs has also cemented my choice in becoming a trainee solicitor in a market leading firm such as Byrne Wallace.

I believe that I am equipped with skills that not only separate me from other candidates, but which would also be of benefit to Byrne Wallace. The majority of clients in corporate law firms appear to consist of commercial interests. The business aspect of my degree along with invaluable work experience in a bank allows me to comprehend a client’s problem from more than just a legal perspective. With this I have excellent inter-personal skills and communication skills which I believe are critically important in order to build relationships with clients and fellow employees. I am confident in my public speaking ability from experience doing presentations on various topics in university and in work settings. I work well as part of a team but equally competent at working alone. Finally, I am well experienced in team-based tasks and have a proven ability to work in a supportive and collaborative manner as part as a team which I trust will match many of Byrne Wallace’s core values.