**Michael Kerley**

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**RE: Trainee Solicitor Position**

To whom it may concern,

I hope you are well. My name is Michael Kerley. I am writing to apply for the trainee solicitor programme. In the paragraphs below, I have outlined some more information about my experience and education. Fundamentally, I am a motivated candidate, I have passed all FE-1 exams, I have an extensive academic background in law as well as some professional experience in a corporate environment.

My most recent role was as a KYC analyst in Citi’s Dublin office. I carried out renewals of corporate entities that conducted business with Citi on a multinational level (e.g. Coca-Cola). My core tasks involved gathering government documents in accordance with local AML regulatory requirements, analysing existing databases and correcting errors, and managing strict deadlines by ensuring client outreach and follow ups were sent in a timely manner. Immediately prior to Citi, I was employed in AIB as an Anti-Money Laundering Analyst within the Financial Crime Team. My role in AIB involved analysing a flagged customer’s banking activity and assessing whether it was sufficiently suspicious to warrant a report to AIB’s internal investigations team or An Garda Síochána. It was detail-oriented work, requiring focus, concentration, and an analytical perspective.

Last year, I completed a masters in MSc Law & Finance at Trinity College Dublin, having achieved a 2.1 final grade. I gained a valuable appreciation and understanding for the financial industry, which complements my undergraduate studies - a 2.1 in LLB(Law) from Trinity College Dublin. In total, I have studied more than 30 law modules over five years of education.

I have experience working in a professional legal environment as an intern in Harrison O’ Dowd Solicitors, Limerick. HOD mainly specialises in civil litigation and property law, I worked with both departments. My duties included assisting senior solicitors with cases, conducting court observations, carrying out CCTV analysis and organising files.

From March 2021- March 2022 I sat and passed all eight FE-1s with a 100% pass rate. I sat my first two FE-1s while simultaneously studying for my masters, and the remaining six while working full-time in AIB. This was a considerable challenge which required effective time management, dedication, and a few long nights.

I am determined to further my career in law. My work experience is directly applicable to the duties expected of a trainee solicitor; in HOD, I experienced a legal environment while in Citi and AIB I conducted analytical work restricted by deadlines. From the Byrne Wallace website, I note the firm provides a wide variety of services, many of which are based in the financial and corporate sector. My work in Citi, AIB and MSc in finance lends itself to the corporate side of the firm, while my work as a waiter and a teacher has fostered an understanding of people which is essential when working with individual clients. I firmly believe I would be both a good fit for and an asset to the firm. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Michael Kerley