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**Re: Traineeship Application**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show why I would like to be a part of the Byrne Wallace trainee programme and why I believe I am a suitable candidate.

There are a number of reasons that I have chosen to apply to Byrne Wallace. The first of these is that I can tell from looking at the firm’s website that as a trainee, I would be exposed to plenty of high-profile and complex cases, which is exactly what I want from my traineeship. It is quite clear from looking at the value of deals that Byrne Wallace are involved in that they are a well-respected and trusted firm. I can also see that there is a good atmosphere within the firm, with many of the trainees referring to the fact that during the working day everyone is driven and motivated, but there is also plenty of chances to socialise with your workmates as there are plenty of activities organised to allow members of staff to get to know each other, which is a key part of a good working environment.

I believe that I would fit in well in an environment like this. I started my college life in Maynooth University in order to try and play my way on to the golf scholarship programme there. I then transferred to 2nd year in UCC, I then went to Dublin on placement as part of the BCL Clinical programme and I am now back in Cork for my final year. Throughout this time I have proven that I have no problem making new friends and thriving in new surroundings. I have proven that I am an outgoing and friendly person and I believe that is a skill that stands to me both in the context of starting in a new firm and also when working with clients.

Another reason that I believe I am a good fit for Byrne Wallace is my work experience. I have worked in 3 different, well-respected offices in both Dublin and London and in both corporate and criminal law. I have learned a lot about working under pressure, particularly in KOD Lyons as I was given the responsibility of dealing with the High Court bail cases which meant I was meeting clients in prison and taking instructions on a daily basis. That experience has made me adept at working under high pressure without panicking. When working in Kerman and Co I was also working with high-profile clients such as the All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon) in helping them eradicate ticket touts. I believe both of these experiences would stand to me if I was to work at Byrne Wallace.

A further skill I possess that I believe would be helpful in the offices of Byrne Wallace as a trainee is my ability to speak up for myself and my ability to convey my thoughts effectively. I have proven this through my success in debating and moot court. I have competed in a number of debates and moot courts and won the 2016 International Humanitarian Law competition. I was also elected as the Moot Convenor for UCC Law Society for 2017/18. Although it is rare for a solicitor in a corporate setting to speak in court, as a trainee it is likely that one will have to give presentations and also it is just useful to be confident in the way one speaks.

I am also quite interested in sports, particularly golf. I am a 4-handicap golfer with experience of representing my club and county at junior and senior level. I have captained our junior team to the Munster Final on one occasion. I believe my interest in golf and my captaining of the team to the Munster Final show that I am both a hard-worker and a leader. Golf is all about identifying weaknesses in your game and strengthening them in order to improve and I believe that this is a skill that would certainly work in my favour as a trainee in Byrne Wallace. I am also an enthusiastic swimmer, having achieved “A” grades in all strokes with Killarney Swimming Club and Division 2 times in a majority of strokes. As a swimmer, at my peak, I get up at 6am to train 3 times a week and in total would train 6 times a week. I believe this level of discipline has stood to me and will continue to stand to me in a professional context.

I hope that this letter has proven that I am a good candidate for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace. I hope that I have shown, through my academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, sporting activities and personality that I would be a good fit for the firm as a hard-working and competent individual.

I that you can look upon my application favourably.

Yours faithfully,

Niall O’Connor