Beth Onslow of Byrne Wallace;

My name is Patrick Cosgrave, I am writing today in relation to the Byrne Wallace Trainee Development Programme. The purpose of this correspondent is to outline my desire to be considered as a potential participation in the esteemed, aforementioned programme.

I am a law graduate of the University of Wales, having graduated in 2011 with a second class honours, upper division degree in Irish law. I have continued my legal studies in order to established a prominent legal career, by undertaking the Law Society of Ireland Final Entrance Examination (first-part). As of the date of writing this correspondent I have passed six out of the required eight examinations. I have also gained invaluable, particle experience by working as an Executive Officer in the Department of Justice & Equality.

Of seminal consideration, in determining to apply for the Trainee Development Programme with Byrne Wallace was the honoured tradition of the law firm, the nature and calibre of the work, the firms culture and people and finally its own sense of corporate responsibility. Unlike many, I fully comprehend and appreciate the value of an associated tradition and reputation of a law firm. The reputation of a firm is established not by reference to any monetary consideration but the hard work of its employees throughout its history. The employees, including trainees are rewarded by been in an environment in which they will acquire a wealth of legal knowledge and experience. furthermore, the law firm’s reputation, is a commodity in itself for their further endeavours. I appreciate the positive effect, the established trainee programme at Byrne Wallace will have on any potential or further prospective opportunity’s whether it be making partner in a top firm such as Byrne Wallace, setting up a successfully practice or been appointed a member of the judiciary as result of been a trainee solicitor in such a well-regarded firm

As I have previously alluded too I want to be solicitor with a prominent legal career, which will only be achieved by acquiring the relevant knowledge and experience. This can only be achieved by actually reading the files, listing to clients and counsel, preparing briefs and not by just watching others perform. I am cognises of the fact that as a trainee solicitor there will be elements of and occasion in where I must just shadow, listen and observe. However, I always prefer to learn by engaging, contributing and performing the relevant task and issues at hand. It is for this reason I am eager to secure a position as a trainee solicitor in a law firm such as Byrne Wallace which will give me the responsibilities and a workload form the beginning. Furthermore, calibre of work with reference to the diversity of practice areas which the firm operates in from Administrative Law to Technology is both appealing and advantageous. The exposure to many practice areas is something, I desire in the training programme to avoid the faith of many solicitors in 2007 and 2008 who had only concerned themselves in conveyance.

In terms of the people and culture, I have read the literature available on the Byrne Wallace website and the eloquent testimonials of the trainee’s experience within the firm. It is evident that above all else the firm values its people. A training programme which invest in its trainees, to give them the knowledge, experience and capabilities of becoming prominent solicitors is exactly what I desire in a programme. It is part of my constitution, that if individuals invest in me then a burden shifts upon myself to repay that trust and investment in full. I am relentless in my object to repay in full and more to those who have placed trust and confidence in me.

The ethos of Byrne Wallace in terms of its corporate responsibility although not significant as the other factors outline above in determining to apply for the trainee solicitor programme was still relevant The ability to empathise with individuals is a fundamental attribute of a trainee solicitor. I certainly have experience of this have been a voluntary in the Order of Malta for a number of years.

There is beyond any doubt what, the trainee development programme could do for my legal career. I would now like to highlight the skills, experience and attributes I can bring to the Byrne Wallace.

Earlier this year I finished a contract of employment as an Executive Officer with the Department of Justice & Equality working in the Residence Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, Burgh Quay. I had no prior experience in the area of Immigration Law upon my appointment However, I have an eagerness to learn which is demonstrated by the fact, that after conducting extensive legal research of the judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union and analysis of the approach adopted by certain Member States in respect of the courts decisions, I drafted a sixty page report setting out the law and provided appropriate recommendations for the Department of Justice & Equality with intentions to draft a memorandum for the next government with a view to introducing legislation. Although my fellow Civil Servant colleagues had years’ of experience, I educated myself and acquired the relevant knowledge in a short amount of time to the extent that aforementioned individuals where now coming to me for advice. This culminated with me drafting the official principles, policies and guidelines for the Department of Justice & Equality when considering applications for permission to remain in the state based on the parent of an Irish citizen child.

I am a determined individual, who has the capacity to educate myself and acquired relevant information and knowledge in a short amount of time in matters where I have no previous exposure too. This is skill and attribute can be transfer and use in the context of any practice area of law. Furthermore, the area of law in which I operated in, whilst at the Department of Justice & Equality namely Immigration law is set to unquantifiable expand in the immediate future given the implication of the United Kingdom referendum result on their membership of the European Union.

I also have the ability to work under pressure and to strict deadlines. As an Executive Officer it was my function to read, evaluate and scrutinise individual’s previous immigration files and history against their current application which given the ratio of staff and applications could take up to and over six months. Often these applicants, would with the assistance of their solicitors issue the Department with letters threating to institute legal proceedings in the High Court seeking an order of Mandamus if a decision was not communicated within fourteen days. On a number of occasions, I would have four of these types of cases at the same time which required me to issue a decision on behalf of the Department of Justice and Equality within ten days not taken weekends in consideration. I during the course of my tenure meet all my deadlines and the Department was not subject to proceedings as a result from any of my case workload.

Fundamental to any profession but of seminal importance in the legal profession is an individual’s attention to detail. This is one of my strongest attributes demonstrated by the fact that whilst processing applications for permission to remain in the State based on the parentage of an Irish citizen child, I would review applicant’s entire immigration files which had accumulated considerable material whilst at various stages of the asylum process.

I would read the individuals application and supporting documentation which they have submitted to Residence Division, I would then call the individuals immigration file from registry and compare the accounts given during the asylum process and their application to myself in the Residence Division. If there was any inconsistency in the accounts, I would take the appropriate action by issuing letter of fair procedure or requesting DNA evidence.

The information contained in this cover letter is just a very brief introduction and is not an exhaustive list of my interest, knowledge and experience. I would like to refer you to the accompanying CV for a more comprehensive understanding.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this brief cover letter and the accompanying CV.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Cosgrave.