88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2,

D02 DK18,

Ireland.  
  
Dear Ms. Murray,

My name is Patrick Ferguson and I am applying for a training contract commencing 2022 onwards.

From early on in my degree, I anticipated sitting my FE-1s as soon as possible and applying to traineeships quickly afterwards. However, after being awarded a high 2:1 in my degree, I realised that I somewhat lacked in commercial awareness, particularly surrounding commercial and financial transactions. I recognised this was a key flaw for someone seeking a career in a dynamic commercial law firm. I therefore elected to take a year out before commencing the Fe-1 exams, to complete a master’s degree in Law and Finance (M.Sc.) in Trinity College Dublin.

Since commencing this course (and studying the modules highlighted on my CV), I believe that I would like to specialise in the area of corporate law. Having researched which firms in Ireland were the most reputable surrounding M&A and financial services advisement, Byrne Wallace was the obvious frontrunner due to the massive acquisitions they have advised on in recent years.

I have developed a multitude of skills that would be invaluable to me as a trainee solicitor in Byrne Wallace, in my various workplaces over the years (as detailed on my CV). Of particular importance is my current position, where I am an accommodation department shift-leader. This role demonstrates my ability to work as a team member, along with my ability to show initiative and lead when needed.

I developed skills concerning legal research while in university. However, I drastically improved on my effective, legal researching skills while interning with the Global Legal Action Network (a Human Rights NGO) this year. While interning, I was assigned to a project surrounding a land-grab that occurred in a small sovereignty in the Caribbean. While I am not interested in pursuing a career in Human Rights law, I did gain invaluable experience in this role. I learned to work as a team member in an office environment and communicate effectively with other team members to ensure tasks were carried out within deadlines, etc.

Along with the skills required, I also believe I have the characteristics required for an aspiring solicitor in a commercial law firm such as Byrne Wallace.

Innovation is paramount to any aspiring corporate solicitor, as creative solutions are required for clients on a day to day basis. I have shown innovation on countless occasions throughout university. Some examples of this would be: An independent research project on embryonic stem cells and their patentability where I recommended reforms to the law, and; Where a partner and I took part in NUI Galway’s mooting competition and were given first-class honours scores for our legal arguments, and; Earlier this year when I elected to carry out my master’s dissertation on M&A in the digital sector.

I am incredibly driven, and I have failed to let personal/financial setbacks stop me from achieving my goal of being a perfect candidate for a traineeship in a large commercial law firm such as Byrne Wallace. In final year I worked part-time, was the class representative, maintained my position as an ordinary committee member on the mountaineering club committee, interned with the aforementioned NGO, and still obtained a 72% average. Not only does this show my commitment to a career in law, but also that I understand the importance of a work/life balance, as if not for my ability to multi-task and manage my time, this would certainly have led to burn-out.

In summary, I believe I am a well-rounded candidate for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace, as I will have completed my master’s program and FE-1s by that point. Furthermore, I believe that I am tailored for Byrne Wallace specifically for the reasons mentioned above.

Thank you in advance for considering my application and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards,

Patrick Ferguson.