Byrne Wallace Solicitors  
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Ronan Finucane

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To whom it may concern,

Following your announcement of traineeships for the coming period I would like to express my interest in applying for one of these traineeships.

My name is Ronan Finucane.  I have completed a Bachelor of Civil Law in the National University of Ireland, Galway and have just recently completed a Masters in International and Comparative Law at Trinity College Dublin.

I have always been interested in the law and hope to pursue a legal career in the future.  I am eager to develop new skills and gain an insight into the many areas of the law Byrne Wallace practices in.

Working in law has long been an ambition of mine. The opportunity to work in a commercial law firm would be an extremely exciting prospect and one that I would hugely welcome.  I am interested in the work Byrne Wallace does in particular with relation to your work on aspects such as property and environmental law.

I have now studied law for the past number years in both Ireland and France as well as having obtained substantive work experience in the legal field. I believe this traineeship would be a great way of understanding how the law operates in practice and how the skills I have attained in an academic and professional setting can be applied to the duties and competencies of a commercial law trainee.  Indeed, five years ago I undertook an Erasmus year in Toulouse, France, where I attended Université de Toulouse Capitole 1 studying law through French.  This has given me a better appreciation of the values of self-reliance and independence as well as greatly improving my French.  Coupled with my results from my final year at NUIG and my Masters degree, I feel I have illustrated a greater maturation over the past number of years.  I believe I would be capable of handling any situations which may arise on this traineeship with more awareness and care and address them with a consistent attitude of hard work.

My past experience has illustrated my suitability for this traineeship.  From being an activities coordinator working with children to working as a case processor and dealing with many clients, to the numerous sports teams I have played on, I have developed strong communication skills, leadership qualities and integrity.  I have a proven track record of working with many different types of people in a professional environment and this has allowed me to develop a conscientious and courteous demeanour.  I think this would greatly benefit me when working at the firm.

Having completed many presentations in French while studying in Toulouse I believe I am confident when speaking in public. Communicating effectively and being concise strike me as fundamental requirements for this position. However, I believe this opportunity would also allow me to learn many new skills and greatly improve my research techniques. These would permit me to supplement what I have already gained from various aspects of working and university life and become far more capable in relation to these vital skills.

During the first 8 months of 2015, I worked as an office assistant at the office of Harrison O’Dowd Solicitors in Limerick. Each working day included various administrative duties such as preparing briefs and filing.  I also became competent in relation to using online resources such as the Land Registry and Revenue Services. Equally, alongside this, I became familiar with management software. I was also regularly asked to conduct legal research on a diverse multitude of topics. These tasks enabled me to hugely increase my confidence in relation to interacting with people in a professional environment and also allowed me to develop a compassionate mindset and a strong sense of responsibility to each individual need. I think these skills would greatly benefit me in any situations or tasks which could arise when participating in this traineeship.

Further, at the end of 2014 I participated in an internship in Philadelphia.  I was the only student selected by NUIG to complete this prestigious internship.  I worked with Joseph T Kelley, an attorney in the Center City area of Philadelphia.  I gained great insight into American law and was regularly given tasks to complete on a bi-weekly basis ranging from legal research to writing complaints and answers.

Coupled with my previous role with the Department of Justice. I feel my past academic and professional experience has demonstrated my ability to complete substantive research, draft clear and well articulated written pieces and produce well reasoned submissions.

I am motivated, able to work on my own initiative and, certainly, a team player and I would welcome the opportunity to develop my legal skills and gain valuable experience if selected to participate in this traineeship.

I have attached my curriculum vitae for your perusal.  Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Ronan Finucane