21st September 2017

To whom it may concern,

My name is Seán Moloney and I am a twenty-two-year-old Law student from Cork. As I have entered my final year at University, I am writing to you to express my wish to be considered for a place on the Byrne Wallace Traineeship programme. I believe that my desire to develop as a strong legal professional, if coupled with the experience and guidance Byrne Wallace can offer, would give me the best chance to realise my full potential.

I have had something of a fascination with the law for some time. At school, the concept of an expansive set of rules to govern human and commercial conduct was something I was keen to know more about. Studying Law at Trinity College Dublin has enabled me to achieve this. During my studies, I have interacted with various elements of the law. As my CV shows, I have covered a broad range of modules. I believe this strengthens my case for being a good fit for Byrne Wallace, whose operations span such a wide variety of industries. Further to this, the majority of my chosen fourth year modules are also practice areas in which Byrne Wallace specialises. These include Intellectual Property, Competition Law, and Tax.

I have attained a wide variety of transferable skills from what I consider to be a very extensive and varied employment history for someone of my age. I have worked continuously since the age of sixteen, breaking only for the Leaving Certificate in 2013 and briefly toward the end of my first year at University. This includes a year out from studying, where I worked full time and was subsequently able to pay my own accommodation costs the following year. I believe this evidences my work ethic, diligence, and versatility. The individual roles I have had and the skills I have derived from them are outlined in detail on my CV as attached to this application. References are of course available on request.

Continued and diverse employment has gifted me with an appreciation of the vast structure of society, and the many parts that are played to ensure it works efficiently. However, as these roles were secured on a part-time basis, or were entry level positions, I often found my sense of contribution to that structure was limited. I feel that working as a corporate lawyer provides an outstanding opportunity to improve my offering. Further to this, I have experience of working in both a small local practice in County Cork and a public-sector office here in Dublin. I consequently now believe that commercial private practice is where my skills would be utilised to their greatest potential. I understand the client-focused nature of such work and the incentive for continued improvement and consistent quality that it provides. I believe this would provide me with great drive and determination in my work and allow me to perform to the high standard I believe I can.

My experience on sports teams, and a highly active and responsible committee in the JCR (as outlined on my CV), make me a proven team player with organisational and innovative ability. I feel this would assist me greatly as a lawyer and has also contributed greatly to my interpersonal skills. I believe the experience and knowledge gained from these endeavours is directly applicable to the work I would undertake as a trainee solicitor. This is because while it would be informative and educational to learn from such accomplished lawyers, there would of course be times where I would have to take responsibility for my own work.

I would particularly like the opportunity to prove the applicability of these skills at Byrne Wallace, as the culture and values of the firm are remarkably closely aligned to that and those by which I strive to live my own life. I am particularly impressed by the attention the firm pays to its corporate social responsibility. As my CV details, I served as the JCR Welfare Officer in my second year at Trinity. A large part of this involved bringing the community of Trinity Hall together, often in a bid to benefit our surrounding community or a chosen charity. However, this is not the only respect in which I consider Byrne Wallace to be impressive.

I have researched the firm in some depth, and its commitment to excellence certainly manifests in more than just its charitable endeavours. Its description by Michael Griffin as being ‘professional’ and ‘thorough’ following its advising of his company for which it won SME Deal of the Year in 2017 is something I have in fact been fortunate enough to witness first-hand. Whilst on an internship with Dublin City Council’s Legal Department I attended a seminar from Byrne Wallace on conveyancing transactions, in which these characteristics shone through once more. I truly believe that working in a firm so committed to excellence in all that it does would allow me to realise my full potential as a lawyer. I would relish the opportunity to do so if selected for the programme.

Finally, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my application, and I hope it finds you well. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Best regards,

Seán Moloney