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Ms. Crona McLoughlin,  
HR Manager,  
ByrneWallace,  
88 Harcourt St,  
Saint Kevin's,  
Dublin,  
D02 DK18.

Dear Ms. McLoughlin,

My name is Shaun Boyle and I am a final year Business and Law student at University College Dublin. I am writing to apply for a place on the ByrneWallace Trainee Programme. After attending the ByrneWallace Open Evening and speaking to you, Employment Partner Michelle Ní Longáin and former Managing Partner Paul McGennis, I became convinced that ByrneWallace is the ideal place for me to grow and develop into the pre-eminent solicitor that I aspire to be. ByrneWallace is the first large Irish law firm to achieve Lexcel accreditation and to be certified for ISO 27001. To be offered the chance to train in such a progressive environment, which aims to be first in the market to avail of new opportunities, would give me the chance to be involved in ground-breaking work with influential clients, surrounded by some of the top legal professionals in the country.

I believe that my degree has provided me with a solid basis for a career at ByrneWallace through my combined experiences of both business and the law. I currently possess a GPA of 3.67, which puts me on track to graduate with a first-class honours degree. The fact that I am in a position to do so is quite impressive given that a large amount of my time is pre-occupied by my involvement in extra-curricular activities and part-time work. This demonstrates my strong record of performance and my organization and time management skills, which I could use in a career at ByrneWallace to manage heavy workloads and meet deadlines.

I have been able to develop a formidable skillset through my involvement in extra-curricular activities. I was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Business and Law Class Representative, which developed my ability to present issues to senior staff on behalf of my class and negotiate innovative solutions. Acting as a caller for the UCD Foundation, a registered charity, has increased my social awareness, my ability to present a case and my resilience to keep going with the fundraising effort. Volunteering for the UCD Student Legal Clinic has allowed me to develop my emotional intelligence and legal research skills, which would enable me to provide the excellent service which ByrneWallace is renowned for. ByrneWallace's involvement in the Solas Project, particularly the Solas@School Business Project, is an inspiring initiative, which I would love to get involved with during a traineeship at ByrneWallace, as one of my main motivations for pursuing a career in law is to help people.

My previous work experiences have given me a strong work ethic, a high commercial focus and excellent customer service skills. My former position as Team Supervisor in my job at Arena 7 Entertainment Complex demonstrates that I have leadership attributes well beyond my years and that I am capable of leading a team to deliver an excellent service in a busy client-focused environment. Last summer, I was able to put my legal and commercial knowledge into practice during an internship in the Tax Department at KPMG. Through analyzing clients' financial statements, filing clients' tax returns and researching tax legislation, I was able to develop my analytical and research skills. These skills would enable me to thrive in a career at ByrneWallace, where I could research legislation, scrutinize precedents and apply the law to ByrneWallace's clients.

While I do not have formal previous experience in a corporate law firm, I am someone who is comfortable embracing new challenges and adapting to new surroundings. This is evidenced by the Erasmus that I completed at Bocconi University, Milan. Studying in a foreign country, where a different language was spoken, was a daunting prospect initially, but, by immersing myself in the culture and seeking out opportunities to integrate myself, I was able to thrive in this environment. I became an active member of the college community there and was awarded the “Mr. Erasmus” Award for my work in setting up an Irish society to promote Irish culture among exchange students. This demonstrates that I am a friendly, approachable and open-minded individual, capable of interacting with a diverse range of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Therefore, I find the opportunity to work in a firm who are so active in attracting FDI and working with international companies, such as Zalando, to be a very exciting learning opportunity, and one which I would aim to take full advantage of.

Throughout my time in university, I have found that I have thoroughly enjoyed each of the areas of the law which I’ve studied. Employment Law is an area of law in which I have developed a particular interest thanks to my exposure in the UCD Student Legal Clinic and from the continuous industrial disputes which currently dominate headlines. Protecting rights of workers and helping large international employers to comply with Irish employment laws would be an incredibly rewarding career for me. I understand that ByrneWallace is considered the home of employment law in Ireland, and as such this would be the most conducive environment for me to explore this interest and apply the relevant skills which I have acquired over the years. I was intrigued to hear about the firm’s involvement in advising UNITE for a hearing in the European Court of Justice in the Waterford Crystal pensions case. Exposure to such cases would not only bolster my development as a solicitor but would also provide me with a meaningful and fulfilling career.

From my research of the firm and from attending the Open Evening, it is clear that ByrneWallace is an ambitious, forward-looking and innovative firm dedicated to providing a superior service for their clients. I too share these values and believe that I possess the necessary commercial mindset and legal knowledge combined with the strong client service, teamwork and adaptability needed to become a top legal professional at ByrneWallace.

Thank you for giving my application your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Shaun Boyle.