Dear Sir/ Madam,

I have always had an interest in the workings of the business world and how this is often shaped by political developments. Thus, understanding this interplay from a legal perspective is something which I was always intrigued by, and his since been confirmed following my completion of the LLB. In today’s world, Brexit is ubiquitous and hard to avoid in any conversation – social or economic. With so much hinging on the outcome of the current negotiations between the UK and the EU, in terms of implications for Irish people, business and trade, I want to be involved in a career where the most pervasive issues are at the forefront and are addressed in such a way that results in effective solutions for clients. I note that your firm is hosting a seminar in Manchester to explore trading opportunities between Ireland and the UK. It is uplifting to see a firm approach the current situation by focusing on the positives, amidst so much uncertainty and negativity. Moreover, given my close proximity to the border and how frequently I cross to go into the north, I have an added interest in the outcome.

During my time spent studying the LLB at the University of Limerick, I was able to balance holding a part time job, working 4 days a week, and studying full-time. At the end of the 2 years in Limerick I graduated with a high average, First Class Honours degree. This is indicative of my ability to multi-task and to prioritise a busy work schedule, key skills required for anyone working in a top law firm. An ability I possess in abundance is the ability to build a strong rapport with colleagues which results in healthy working relationships and effective working towards team goals. I have acquired this skill, and demonstrated it, through past roles in the insurance, retail and catering industries. Furthermore, past teachers have often commented on my natural "flair" for English insofar as I am able to digest large, and often complex, volumes of reading/writing and have the ability to neatly encapsulate these into succinct and accurate summaries.

Working as a trainee at Byrne Wallace and developing resilience through the intellectual challenge of working on high profile legal transactions, is something which I aspire to achieve. Byrne Wallace is the only large Irish Law Firm certified with ISO27001 by Certification Europe in Ireland; this is very important considering the significance of the GDPR introduced earlier this year, and reassuring to see that a law firm goes to such lengths to ensure an attractive guarantee for its clients. I note your Trainee Learning and Development programme is equipped with state-of-the-art research resources, coupled with opportunities to excel in both a professional and personal capacity. Furthermore, your commitment to corporate responsibility is evidenced through your lawyers’ involvement in the *Solas Project* to equip those less advantaged to reach their potential. In addition to this, I have spoken to past interns of your firm and representatives at careers fairs at college; they spoke very highly of Byrne Wallace and their enthusiasm for the firm was plain to see. All of the above has strengthened my ambition to work at such a prestigious firm.

I consider myself to be an affable, conscientious person who is easy to approach and work well with; working as part of a team is synonymous with my ability to engage and listen to other people. The success I enjoyed in my sporting career came down to the combination of drive, focus and dedication, and I believe that I can harness these attributes and apply them in order to excel in the legal sector as a solicitor.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for considering my application and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Yours Faithfully,

Stephen Mc Laughlin