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Graduate Recruitment Manager  
ByrneWallace  
88 Harcourt Street  
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Dear Graduate Recruitment,

I am an LL.M graduate specialising in Corporate Law from University College London (UCL). I am writing to apply for the Trainee Programme 2021 at ByrneWallace.

My interest in law began when I realised that the Financial Crisis of 2008 could have been prevented by a keen examination of the law. This, to me, highlighted the importance of the law in our society. With a will to better understand the application of the law in the world of business, I decided to study business and law at an undergraduate level in University College Dublin (UCD).

Throughout UCD, I worked hard to stand amongst the top achievers in my course and have a strong knowledge of both legal and business affairs. Although my course has touched upon various subjects, I found the law modules aligned more with my interests. I enjoyed taking a critical stance on various legal issues and applying cases to construct a persuasive argument. Furthermore, attending a negotiation workshop enabled me to understand a commercial lawyer's role in facilitating transactions and the importance of contracts. Well-negotiated contracts lay the groundwork for transactions to proceed seamlessly, dividing risks and aligning the interests of the parties. This negotiation aspect of commercial law excites me as it will enable me to utilise my advocacy skills to balance opposing interests and reach a compromise.

My interest in commercial law was further enhanced at Eversheds Sutherland. Here, I was exposed to the problem-solving aspect of the law which I found quite enjoyable. By helping my supervisor solve an urgent problem about whether an accident which occurred in Switzerland could be claimed in the Irish Courts, I witnessed the importance of lawyers acting swiftly and in the best interests of clients. Staying organised using checklists, I contributed to the problem-solving by completing research concerning the Fourth Motor Insurance Directive. Finally, my time at Fieldfisher made me realise the multi-jurisdictional nature of the law and how it adds further complexity to a deal. Overcoming these challenges by working in teams, juggling multiple tasks and carrying out legal research as a commercial lawyer makes it an exciting career.

I am applying to ByrneWallace for a variety of reasons. Firstly, I am attracted to ByrneWallace because of its strong Corporate Department, which was named 'Corporate Law Firm of the Year' by ACQ5 Law Awards in 2018. I became interested in both private and public M&A after I was involved in a negotiation workshop. Here, I was involved in an intellectually stimulating case study involving an acquisition scenario. I had the opportunity to negotiate on various elements including the type of acquisition, the price and any warranties and representations to mitigate risks. Given my interest in this area, I believe the firm's top-ranked Corporate Department will provide me with unrivalled deal exposure. The firm's involvement in advising M&M Walshe Holdings Limited in relation to its acquisition by Eight Fifty Food Group further illustrates the strength of its corporate department. The deal is remarkable because the acquisition allowed more than 7,500 people to be employed across 19 sites in the UK and Ireland. Therefore, exposure to market-changing cases such as this will ensure I receive the best legal training.

Secondly, I was drawn to ByrneWallace because of the friendly environment that was represented at their Insight Evening. At first, I was unsure of what to expect, but upon arriving, I was received by welcoming and friendly receptionists which left a lasting impression. At the event itself, I got a better understanding of the culture which was exerted through the trainees. They showed high levels of professionalism while being extremely approachable. Furthermore, I was impressed to hear that trainees are given high levels of responsibility at an early stage. Exposure to challenging and meaningful tasks will lead to professional growth. Having worked at several law firms, I appreciate the challenge of early responsibility but also the supportive training in tandem to this.

Finally, an opportunity at ByrneWallace strongly aligns with my career ambitions. I want to continue to adopt new perspectives and constantly challenge myself in new environments. Credited to the firm's open-door policy, I will have greater exposure to partners. While working in teams with leading pioneers, I can observe how ByrneWallace utilises its business framework to provide strategic and exceptional advice. Furthermore, as I am interested in commercial law's client-focus, I aspire to cultivate a strong client base to increase my contribution to ByrneWallace as a fee-earner.

I believe I have the skills necessary to succeed at ByrneWallace. At UCD, my perseverance has allowed me to consistently meet academic challenges while maintaining heavy extra-curricular activities. For example, I performed two society committee roles, raised money for 100minds and worked on an article in conjunction with my studies. To stay organised, I crafted a structured plan. Every night, I laid out what I was going to do, and when, for the next day. This ensured that I completed all tasks without devoting too much time to one activity. Even though the workload was significant, I achieved firsts in over 33% of my Business and Law degree modules, raised €1,006 for 100minds and my article on sustainable investing was successfully published in a reputable journal. My time management and organisational skills have enabled me to effectively manage responsibilities and produce high-quality work. These skills would help me embrace the early responsibility offered at ByrneWallace and maintain the high-quality work expected by clients.

During my time at I.K. & Co. Solicitors, I honed my communication skills when I responded to client calls relating to immigration applications. As the firm had clients from Pakistan, I was able to utilise my fluency in English and Urdu to build rapport and acquire the information required for successful immigration applications. The numerous client calls that I answered allowed me to develop the ability to convey information succinctly while breaking down jargon into simple language that could be understood by clients. My verbal communication skills would enable me to communicate effectively with both clients and colleagues, contributing to the collaboration at ByrneWallace.

At Eversheds Sutherland, I worked in a team of three colleagues about how the firm could retain top talent. During the planning stage, I noticed that my teammates were shy and did not contribute to the discussions. As a result, I organised outings to break down barriers and make everyone feel comfortable. I also helped colleagues with research and forwarded any articles I thought were useful in a Google Doc file. Through this initiative, I successfully cultivated a team dynamic where my teammates constantly learned from one another, leading to an increase in collaboration. This enabled us to offer an innovative solution by recommending that the firm build an app to enable solicitors to work from home. Ultimately, our presentation was a huge success. I believe that my teamworking ability would be a key skill at ByrneWallace when working in the firm's various teams.

At Fieldfisher, I was tasked with writing a blog post on 'Forfeiture of Commercial Leases' for the Partner. My first draft received constructive criticism from the Partner. To overcome this challenge, I made sure that every point I made in my writing was relevant to my overall argument. The second draft I produced was accepted by the Partner. My resilience would enable me to learn from mistakes that I would make as a ByrneWallace trainee and tackle the complex characteristics of cross-border work.

Finally, as LL.M Class Representative and LL.M Library Representative, I improved the LL.M learning experience and worked with Law Faculty to instigate positive change. One of my responsibilities as a Class Representative was to increase registration within the Unitu platform, an online feedback system for students. However, because the platform was new, many LL.M students were unaware of its use. To increase registration within the system, I drafted an email to my LL.M cohort outlining what the system was, what it did and its advantages. I also incentivised students by ensuring that whoever registered would be entered into a draw for Amazon Gift Vouchers. My innovative idea led to registration increasing four times over, from 31/380 to 178/380 students making it a huge success. My creative thinking abilities will allow me to solve complex challenges faced by clients, increasing client relationships at ByrneWallace.

Apart from my professional life, I thoroughly enjoy investing. My primary niches are undervalued investing and sustainable investing. As a result, I am very interested in financial news which has helped me to increase my commercial awareness. My passion for investing led me to become the Assistant Sector Manager of the UCD Student Managed Fund. Here, I led a team of three analysts to monitor the performance of the Financial Sector and identify suitable medium to long-term investments. I have also written an article on sustainable investing which was published in the UCD Commerce and Economics Journal in March 2018.

My other interests revolve around volunteering and making a positive impact in the community. During my time as Treasurer of UCD ArabSoc, I coordinated with several society members to organise the first-ever Syrian Charity Week in UCD. The event aimed to recreate the struggle of people living in Syria. I designed posters to raise awareness and assisted in bucket collections with my team throughout the event. My drive and determination led to over €3,000 being raised in a single week. I have also taken part in the 100minds project. My personal goal was to raise €1,000 for life-saving medical equipment for Temple Street Hospital in Ireland. As part of my initiative, I sold Laughter Lounge tickets and coordinated with several societies to organise a bake sale and a football tournament. As a result, I succeeded in raising €1,006 for this great cause.

I am also an avid graphics designer, a skill which I have taught myself. The rendering and C4D style mostly inspire my visuals. I combine these methods to recreate visuals. I often include typography in my work to convey a message. My pursuit of fitness has led me to create personalised workout programmes for friends. We train each week and have increased the weights in our barbell training by 15kg each month.

Thank you for reading my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,  
Tamoor Javed Barlas