Thompson Barry Doherty

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Glasnevin

Dublin 11

Human Resources Manager

Byrne Wallace

21 October 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

I enclose herewith my application with a view towards being considered for ByrneWallace’s Traineeship Programme. I am seeking to obtain a Traineeship with ByrneWallace because of the firm’s expertise across a wide range of practice areas and your increasing reputation as Ireland’s most progressive law firm. This is evidenced by the recent recognition the firm received for excellence in legal service as “Law Firm of the Year” at the Irish Law Awards 2016.

I am currently a Legal Assistant in Mason Hayes & Curran working in the firm’s Debt Recovery & Litigation Department. I play a key role in the management of portfolios of high volume repossession litigation cases for Mason Hayes & Curran’s clients which are comprised of Ireland’s leading financial and lending institutions. At the outset, I am responsible for the review of contract and security documents referred from our lender clients to confirm the relevant proofs for drafting. This has allowed me to develop an expertise in ensuring compliance with the necessary legal and regulatory requirements. Throughout the litigation process, I liaise continually with defendants and client lenders. I am responsible for the drafting, issuing and service of legal proceedings. This also includes preparation of the necessary pleadings and paperwork for court. As a result, I have gained an exceptional understanding of litigation and the courts process.

Further, each week I attend the County Registrar’s List in Dublin Circuit Court and I move the applications; whether it be for an Order for Possession, ex parte motion or an adjournment. From such attendances I have displayed exceptional advocacy skills: I am a proficient quick thinker and an articulate, organised and prepared individual.

I have acquired considerable international experience having completed the yearlong J1 Graduate Visa in New York. I was employed as a Summer Associate in Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles LLP, a New York City law firm based in the heart of Manhattan’s Financial District. During my employment, I developed the key competencies required as a lawyer while gaining exposure across a number of the firm’s practice areas including; litigation, general liability and medical malpractice. While working as a Summer Associate, I participated in extensive research projects. For example, I conducted research which was used to disseminate information to clients including high profile oil companies on the scope of their liability for the discharge of petroleum. This was both a challenging and rewarding experience because of the conflicting state and federal legislation. From the experience, I understand the importance of communicating complex legal issues in an accurate and professional manner.

I also became involved with the Irish American Bar Association of New York while based there working with them as a PR Representative responsible for the promotion of networking events. In particular, I assisted in organising and promoting the annual Bloomsday event which is a unique celebration of James Joyce’s masterwork, Ulysses. This experience gave me the opportunity to expand my networking skills by interacting with academics, lawyers and members of the judiciary. In my opinion, a lawyer plays a vital role in conducting business relationships, which are the key to success of a commercial firm. Further, it is important to be able to relate to the client and develop a working relationship. I would hope to develop these skills at ByrneWallace. Prior to my time abroad, I had also gained experience in Dublin City Centre as a Legal Administrative Assistant in Seoige O’Faolain & Co working alongside personal insolvency practitioners. This was an interesting opportunity given the economic climate at the time.

I have previously been conferred my LL.M. (International and European Intellectual Property Law) from Trinity College Dublin and I have also graduated with a BCL (Law & Society) from Dublin City University, where I obtained a Second Class Honours Grade One. In April 2014, I represented Trinity College Dublin at the Willem C. Vis Moot Court Competition, which was held in Vienna, Austria. The project involved 6 months of research, drafting and editing in order to prepare two 55 page memorials arguing the substantive and procedural issues for both the applicant and the respondent. I participated in four rounds of oral submissions against opponents from leading international universities. I believe that advocacy is a vital skill for any successful lawyer. During this time, I also drafted my thesis and maintained a part time job as well as daily course commitments. The experience helped me learn the importance of balancing my workload.

Further to the above, I am an FE-1 candidate having successfully sat and passed three FE-1s in my first sitting of examinations in March 2016. In the recent October sitting, I sat an additional four FE-1s and will begin preparing shortly for my final sitting in March 2017. I have maintained employment throughout my examinations, managing to balance my workload with the demands of study. I believe this demonstrates my dedication and commitment to pursuing a career in the legal profession.

I am seeking to obtain a Traineeship with ByrneWallace because of the firm’s emphasis on development of their lawyers. In particular, I value the structured training programme on offer and the commitment to continued professional development. I believe it would be extremely beneficial to my own professional development to have the opportunity to work alongside partners and associates who are leading lawyers in their fields and in turn are invested in developing trainees to be the firm’s future leaders. Through my academic, professional and extracurricular achievements I am confident that I have developed the necessary competencies to become a successful lawyer and would thrive in the firm's work environment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me for the position and I look forward to any further correspondence you may have.

Yours faithfully

Thompson Barry Doherty