Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Mel Hzeg O’Reilly and I am a Law Graduate of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University and I have remained there to complete a Master’s course in international business law. I am applying for the Byrne Wallace Summer Internship Programme, as I believe that I have the necessary skills and attributes to do excellent work and ensure client satisfaction.

I was initially drawn to this programme when I came across a report about the firm’s success with interns. I dug deeper researching the programme and the more I read, the more I was determined to participate for the summer of 2022. The firm's drive to lead as a forward-thinking legal business and its reputation in providing an exceptional standard of teaching stood out to me. The opportunity to participate in transactions and interact with clients would expose me to intellectually stimulating work in the firm's core groups and allow me to develop as a valuable team member.

My ambition to become a corporate lawyer began when I competed in arbitration and mediation competitions at the Sorbonne, as I thoroughly enjoyed combining my business mindset with my teamwork and advocacy skills. On top of deep-rooted interest and fascination for the world of international arbitration, I knew that this area of law suited me as it plays to my strengths of having fantastic critical thinking skills and a having an international background through my franco-irish roots. I completed my law degree in a civilian law country but always pushed to take Common law modules whenever I could to understand multiple legal systems and become a well-rounded international corporate lawyer. This is further evidenced, by the fact that I participated in an Erasmus exchange to the University of Liverpool in order to spend a year mastering the Common law system.

Both my completion of the University of Leiden’s online course in international arbitration as well as my participation in my master’s course have aided me to develop strong commercial awareness. Of course, awareness and theoretical skills are beneficial in corporate law, but they are complementary to practical experience. My internship at the Irish Legal Aid Board greatly helped in the development of my practical legal skills as I assisted with court submissions, administrative tasks and conducted pieces of research for the International Protection Office. These tasks further developed my legal research, drafting and editing abilities as a law student when I obtained a *magna cum laude* distinction.

The success of Byrne Wallace is based on client satisfaction and I have the commercial awareness and interpersonal skills to cultivate lasting professional relationships. During my internship at the Legal Aid Board, I attended many client consultations, and even used my French legal language to help translate for francophone clients. This role, along with my work in the charity and retail have helped me gain the skills to put client satisfaction at the forefront of my job. As the Finance and Sponsor Relations Officer at Childfund Ireland, I ensured the continuation of financial support by regularly fostering positive relationships with our sponsors. I have also worked as a counter-staff member for Camile Thai. These client-based experiences have strengthened my desire to choose this career path. I am also perfectly bilingual in English and French, as well as having a B2 level in Spanish and an A2 level in Irish. My language skills and knowledge of French law would be a valuable asset to Byrne Wallace and its strong network of international law firms and clients.

I have displayed initiative and time management skills by balancing my legal studies with my society involvement at University. I am currently a committee member of the International Business Law Society of the Sorbonne. During my undergraduate degree, I was a contributing writer for the England-based online newspaper, The Cabinet, as well as being an active member of the International Students Society. The collaborative culture of Byrne Wallace would most certainly match my enthusiasm.

I would greatly value the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest legal minds at this law firm. I am confident that the combination of my skill set and legal academic rigour will allow me to thrive as a trainee and contribute to the future of this firm in its centenary year.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application,

Sincerely,

Mel Hzeg O’Reilly