**COVER LETTER**

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the summer legal intern position at ByrneWallace LLP. With my background in law, strong academic credentials, and more than two years of practical experience and current studies in the relevant field, I am confident that my skills align well with the summer internship opportunity at ByrneWallace LLP.

Currently pursuing a European Master in Law, Data, and Artificial Intelligence at Dublin City University, I deeply engage in cutting-edge studies at the dynamic intersection of law and emerging technologies. I am honored to have been awarded the fully funded Erasmus Mundus Scholarship by the EU Commission, a testament to my commitment to academic excellence. In addition, I hold an LL.M. in Global Business Law and Regulation from the Central European University in Vienna (CEU). During my time at CEU, I was honored to be awarded the CEU Master's Scholarship, which not only recognized my dedication to academic excellence but also allowed me to immerse myself fully in the multifaceted aspects of global business law, reflected in my academic performance with a grade of 3.31 out of 4.00. Before my LL.M., I earned my bachelor’s degree in law from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, graduating with distinction and achieving an exceptional GPA of 95.68 out of 100. I am honored to note that I was awarded the reputable Presidential scholarship to the top 100 students who achieved the highest scores in the university admission exam.

To further deepen my practical skills in law, I have taken various internships during my bachelor years. After graduating in 2020, I secured a position as a corporate lawyer at Gilan Textile Park, one of the largest textile companies in Azerbaijan. This experience gave me a comprehensive understanding of corporate law and strengthened my negotiation and compliance skills. In one of my most recent roles as a Legal Specialist at the Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions (TABIB) in Baku, I had the opportunity to not only sharpen my legal acumen but also deepen my understanding of the nuanced legal landscape within the healthcare sector, fueling my passion for making a meaningful impact through the application of legal expertise.

Apart from my academic and professional experience, I always actively engage in extracurricular activities to continuously improve my practical skills in law. Through Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, I had the privilege of engaging in intense legal debates and honing my mooting skills on issues ranging from International Criminal Law to International Trade Law and Humanitarian Law for 8 months. This experience not only deepened my knowledge of these specialized areas but also instilled in me the ability to think critically and argue persuasively in a competitive environment. What sets Jessup apart is its global reach, bringing together legal minds from nearly 700 law schools across more than 90 countries. This international exposure allowed me to interact with diverse perspectives and legal traditions, fostering cross-cultural communication skills crucial in the practice of law on a global scale. Moreover, being selected to represent Azerbaijan in the competition's final rounds in the USA was a testament to my ability to navigate complex legal issues and present a compelling case at an international level. The rigorous preparation and high-stakes nature of the competition pushed me to develop resilience, quick thinking, and effective teamwork, essential attributes in any legal career.

Participating in the ByrneWallace LLP Internship Programme presents a valuable opportunity for me to expand my knowledge across various areas of law while also focusing on specialization in the field of data protection. ByrneWallace LLP's distinguished certification with ISO 27001 underscores their comprehensive understanding of data security, cybercrime, and GDPR compliance, offering a unique environment for professional development. The internship within the ByrneWallace LLP would afford me the chance to delve deeply into this specialized area while also gaining exposure to other practice areas within a full-service commercial law firm. As a future solicitor, I aim to develop a broad understanding of legal principles and practices across different sectors while honing my expertise in data protection. Working alongside seasoned legal practitioners at ByrneWallace LLP, I anticipate engaging in diverse tasks such as advising clients on data breaches, responding to subject access requests, drafting privacy policies, and supporting Data Protection Officers. The firm's diverse client portfolio, spanning IT companies, financial institutions, healthcare providers, and public bodies, promises exposure to multifaceted legal challenges and industry-specific nuances. This exposure will be instrumental in broadening my legal acumen and honing my problem-solving skills in various legal contexts.

Furthermore, ByrneWallace LLP's commitment to providing a tailored learning program for interns ensures a supportive professional growth and development environment. The opportunity to participate in the firm's sports and social activities fosters a collaborative culture and strengthens professional networks, enhancing the overall internship experience.

In addition to my academic and professional qualifications, I bring to the table a multilingual capability, being proficient in English, French, Turkish, and Azerbaijani. This linguistic diversity enhances my ability to communicate effectively in multicultural and multinational environments.

In essence, the ByrneWallace LLP Internship Programme aligns perfectly with my career aspirations of becoming a specialized data protection solicitor while cultivating a well-rounded understanding of legal practice across different domains. I am eager to embark on this learning, growth, and contribution journey within such a reputable and esteemed legal institution.

Thank you for considering my application!

Best regards,

Rafiga Malikova