Byrne Wallace LLP,

88 Harbour Court Street,

Saint Kevin’s,

Dublin 2.

10th February 2023

RE: Byrne Wallace Internship Programme 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Sophie-Leigh McLaughlin, I am a final year LLB student in Maynooth University and would like to apply for the 2023 Byrne Wallace Internship Programme.

My interest in law began as a sixteen-year-old student when I read ‘The Secret Barrister', a book that helped me understand the everyday realities of the legal system as well as its relevance and application. I decided during my Leaving Cert years and while competing at inter-secondary school debating competitions, that studying and pursuing a career in law was the direction I wanted to take.

My recent roles include working as a Compliance & Human Resources Officer for Worldwide Education Recruitment, Langley, UK and as a Work Experience Assistant for Aston Bond Law Firm, Slough UK. While working with Worldwide Education I provided analytical compliance support to different teams as well as preparing and delivering presentations for internal and external audiences.

Working with Aston Bond I carried out various duties such as attending client meetings taking and producing minutes, preparation, and dispatch of client correspondence, searching and verification of property files, drafting enquiries and liaising with banks regarding the progress of client loan applications.

My internship with Aston Bond demonstrated to me how the legal system can be daunting for clients but also generated a sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction when providing solutions to clients and colleagues alike. The experience of working with Aston Bond increased my awareness of bilateral legal systems and would be extremely beneficial to a Byrne Wallace Internship.

My shadowing experience in the Four Courts last November with Gillian Dempsey, B.L. demonstrated how one can apply the law to advocate for the rights of the client. My studies and practical experience now motivate me to apply the law to advise, inform and recommend for the good of the client.

Working in the UK and witnessing proceedings in the Four Courts taught me to be organised and disciplined in my work as well as learning the importance of persistence, resilience, working within a team and contributing one’s skills as an individual.

The Byrne Wallace method of recruiting trainees for their internship programme has given me a greater knowledge and understanding of the firm’s values. I commend the system employed for selecting candidates as I have benefitted from it. The process introduces applicants to current employees, challenges applicants to be at their very best, encourages continuous improvement whilst ultimately contributes to producing an exceptional internship programme.

I also admire Byrne Wallace’s partnership with The St. Vincent de Paul Food Appeal, while working in hospitality I volunteered to assist with deliveries for a local Meals-on-Wheels charity based in Kingscourt. The voluntary work was not only humbling but gave me an understanding of linking the values of voluntary charity work with corporate social responsibility.

My many experiences in Maynooth University as a BCL Law & Languages Student (Irish and English) and as an LLB Law Student would also benefit a Byrne Wallace Internship.

In my third year in Maynooth I competed in MU FLAC’s Johanna Airey Moot Competition and was awarded Best Speaker. My studies teach the importance of critical analysis and the ability to conduct research applying relevant information to issues.

As the Auditor of the Literary & Debating Society, Maynooth University’s oldest society, I utilised my team working and leadership skills, demonstrated by increased membership and participation in all society activities. During my term the society created the University’s first student-led journal, ‘The Silver Hand’, a legacy creating new opportunities and building a positive reputation for the Society.

I share the same vision as Byrne Wallace to “achieve excellence in everything” and practise this belief in all my studies and work. The internship would allow me to further embody this concept and contribute as a member of your team.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review my application. I would be very grateful to be considered for an interview to share more about my experiences and zeal for the law.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie-Leigh McLaughlin