September 2021 Ava Christensen-Cregan

 6 Monks Meadow

 Coast Road

 Portmarnock

 Dublin D13 CD35

**RE: Traineeship 2023**

Dear Ms. Murray,

My name is Ava Christensen-Cregan. I wish to submit this initial correspondence to you regarding a candidate application in the Traineeship Programme in

**ByrneWallace**

I graduated from Dublin City University [DCU] with a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) Law & Society (First Class Honours) - May 2021. I am planning to sit my first three FE1 examinations in October 2021, with the hope of having all eight completed by October 2022.

I returned to Ireland in 2015 having lived in Dubai, UAE since 2008. While living abroad, I gained invaluable experiences in a diversified and multicultural international context. My candidacy is, I believe, supported by my First Class Honours Degree Award from DCU [2021], my international educational pathways [achieved through both International Baccalaureate and UK curricula] and the diversity of my life experiences whilst in Dubai and subsequently, Dublin.

These experiences have placed me in a very advantaged position to appreciate the benefits of my education, as well as seeking now, to apply my undergraduate learning in the professional workplace.

Key to my experience so far has been the specific areas of focus my DCU learning has directed for me. I am a strong advocate of the law as an equalizing force within Irish society. I have focussed especially on employment law, company law and jurisprudence generally in my degree. I have also developed a broad interest with the principles of equity of access and justice.

It is clear from my research that ByrneWallace is a progressive law firm with footholds on a domestic and international level. The firm has a broad reach into almost all aspects of Irish law, especially in the area of employment law which is a key interest of mine. The involvement of the firm in a Deal of the Year every year since 2017 among a range of areas highlights the diversity of experience available to clients and displays high levels of corporate operation. This is very interesting to me and I would love to be a part of such a highly regarded firm on a domestic and international front.

My formative learning has, I believe, been strengthened by the range of travel, multi-ethnic engagements and the internationalised environment of Dubai. There, I learned to appreciate my good fortune, the importance of social justice, geo-politics and the ever-present need to understand perspective. Without this, the underpinnings of all legal work is at risk of mis-application and mis-interpretation. My family and I spent much time whilst in Dubai seeking to contribute to social issues in the Gulf region and also in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Kenya. We tried to make some positive contribution to people’s lives there and we remain committed to this work as a family unit. I hope to bring such perspective into the next stages of my development.

Whilst moving back to Dublin from Dubai was a challenge, it taught me the importance of flexibility and adaptability to change. I immersed myself in many sports at Sutton Park School, where I captained the volleyball team and became top goal scorer of the hockey team. I also captained my club volleyball team, the Aer Lingus Kestrels and continued this captaincy to the DCU Volleyball team in 2017/2018. Participation as both captain and team member taught me a lot about motivation and developing relationships and trust within the team. This is an important skill for me to bring with me throughout my legal career, as teamwork is essential to the smooth operating of a high-ranking law firm.

My experience in two law firms, Eversheds Sutherland and Mason Hayes & Curran, were both so different. This highlighted the possibilities within a corporate law firm, with all individuals from varying backgrounds contributing to the common goal. My internship experience taught me the importance of office etiquette, professionalism, note-taking and drafting. My experience in the marketing department refined my skills in attention-to-detail, responsibility, proof-reading and teamwork. Both experiences are important contributors to my personality as a future trainee solicitor and the skills I have gleaned from both firms place me in a position to be further invested in by ByrneWallace.

These skills, I believe, serve me well in my ambition to participate in the Traineeship Programme. In tandem with the ongoing thread of legal judgment emerging in Ireland and the recent acceleration of the *“Global Ireland 2025 Strategy,”* there are real focus points for the legal community. This is especially important in a post-Covid, post-Brexit world economy and must be a daily staple of our professional work.

Throughout my life, I have attempted to advocate for equality, which is why I chose a career in law. I now believe that Equity of Access rather than Equality is the key for each human being. This role offers the potential to work towards such goals. Although saying I want to change the world may be clichéd, I am committed to making a difference to those around me through the use of the skills I have acquired throughout my degree and my life thus far. I enjoyed essay-writing and reading throughout school, and I sought a degree and career that would allow me continue to learn, write and read. My degree has given me the opportunity to hone my drafting skills and improve my overall communication, both orally and in writing, whilst also never neglecting my full commitment to the common good.

It has been a long-standing aspiration of mine to access such an opportunity such as the Traineeship Programme at ByrneWallace. I would be delighted and privileged to continue this conversation with you, at your convenience and I thank you for your attention to my application.

Kind Regards



Ava Christensen-Cregan