Hares Polanco,

225 Avenida Ejercito Nacional,

Miguel Hidalgo,

Mexico City.

Ciara Loftus,

HR Manager,

ByrneWallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2.

27 October 2020

Dear Ms. Loftus,

In this letter, I will outline my motivation for pursuing a career as a solicitor and why ByrneWallace is my firm of choice. Since successfully passing my FE-1 Exams on the first attempt, I have gained practical skills as the Public Diplomacy Attaché in the Embassy of Ireland in Mexico and as Legal Executive Officer in Trinity College Dublin. I know that the variety and scale of a top-tier firm of ByrneWallace’s calibre suits me, and that corporate legal complexities of a challenging and intricate nature will give me a continued sense of job satisfaction and pride.

In my final year of college, I took a module in European Union Politics. I was fascinated by the relationship between EU and Irish Law and the impact these seemingly far-off decisions have on society. The module piqued my interest in law and I set about gaining experience in a legal setting. I began working in the Contracts Office in Trinity Research and Innovation, the research arm of Trinity College Dublin. I loved the fast paced legal environment and the problem-solving nature of the role. I had the opportunity to work on negotiations with sponsors including GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis and Science Foundation Ireland. I developed drafting, teamwork and negotiation skills and the experience cemented my desire to pursue a career as a commercial solicitor.

Before seeking a traineeship, I felt the need to gain experience in an international setting and in 2018, I joined the Embassy of Ireland in Mexico. My current role involves fostering economic, political and cultural links between Ireland, Mexico and eight other countries of accreditation while also supporting the Irish Mexican Chamber of Commerce. In this role, I provide commercial advice to a range of companies, from small start-ups to large international businesses. This experience has deepened my understanding of the commercial needs of Irish and international businesses and has developed my networking, communication, and leadership skills.

Since deciding to pursue a career in law, I have had my sights set on ByrneWallace. The firm appeals to me for a number of reasons, not least for its varied client list and well-established reputation for excellence. Although the firm’s reputation initially attracted me, it was the Trainee Insights Webinar that confirmed ByrneWallace is my firm of choice. For reasons including culture, dedication, expertise and decency, ByrneWallace has notably stood out.

ByrneWallace’s culture was not only discussed, but palpable throughout the webinar. All panellists were positive and encouraging and I was given a strong impression of a collegial environment. I believe it admirable that in the ByrneWallace ethos, decency is highly valued. I enjoyed hearing about the team’s most rewarding cases, all of which concerned providing the best service for their client, and many being tangibly people-focused achievements.

I was also very encouraged when hearing of the career path of Senior Associate Grainne Murphy, who in becoming a solicitor also took the opportunity to gain life experience before applying for the role. In a similar way, I feel I have gained the relevant experience and developed my skills to actively contribute to ByrneWallace over a long career. I believe the firm’s approachability to non-law graduates highlights the open-minded nature of the firm as it recognises the value of a diverse skill set.

Another aspect of ByrneWallace that I find appealing is its reputation in the area of Life Sciences. In Trinity Research and Innovation, I had the opportunity to collaborate with the Office of Corporate Partnership and Knowledge Exchange in advising clinical trial projects. This complex area of the law fascinates me and I would relish the opportunity to gain exposure to ByrneWallace’s top tier practice group and explore further this challenging and diverse practice area.

A final feature of ByrneWallace that left a lasting impression is the firm achieving a gender-balanced partnership. Partner Alison O’Sullivan’s statement that “Our clients expect it, our lawyers deserve it and we are committed to it” is in my opinion, the mind-set all Irish firms should have. As project lead on the Embassy of Ireland’s Presidency of the Roundtable for International Cooperation for Gender Equality in Mexico, this milestone further convinces me that ByrneWallace is where I want to take the first steps in my law career.

## I believe my enthusiasm and diverse skill set would be a valuable addition to the ByrneWallace team. An interview will allow me to demonstrate further how I am a good fit for ByrneWallace and that ByrneWallace is the firm in which my future career is best placed.

Yours sincerely,

Brigid Dolan