Apartment 2

128 Robinson Road

Colliers Wood

London

SW17 9DR

FAO Graduate Recruitment Manager

Byrne Wallace

88 Harcourt St

Saint Kevin's

Dublin, D02 DK18

Ireland

 12 October 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Trainee Development Programme**

I am writing to apply for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Development Programme. I am a law graduate of Queen's University Belfast, have been admitted to the NY State Bar and am currently working as a Litigation Paralegal at Mishcon de Reya LLP in London.

My initial interest in law stems from one of my earliest childhood memories – Good Friday 1998 and the signing of the Belfast Agreement. Brought up on the Donegal-Fermanagh border, I was amazed by the power of negotiation and how the formation of this agreement could provide a solution to the Troubles in Northern Ireland. My desire to pursue a legal career prevailed throughout primary and secondary school and ultimately influenced my decision to study Law at Queen's University Belfast. I then took the unconventional route of sitting the New York Bar, whilst focusing on gaining practical legal experience with a commercial law firm in London. My academic and commercial experience to date has now led to me to apply to Byrne Wallace, in order to begin my career as a solicitor.

When researching commercial law firms and their trainee development programmes, I focused not only on the type of work in which the firm specialises, but also the way in which it works and how this can shape my own training contract, to ensure that I become the solicitor that I want to be. Global yet personal, stable yet dynamic, corporate yet socially active, Byrne Wallace represents a breath of fresh air in the traditional legal world. Internationally recognised as a leading Irish law firm, Byrne Wallace understands that in order to build a successful and sustainable business as well as an award winning law firm, it must invest in its people and focus on developing their talents into the best expertise. The firm's dedication to professional development, coupled with the core values which it instils within daily practice, creates a collaborative, innovative environment which ensures that trainees can reach their full potential.

I am also very much attracted to the firm's practical, client-centred approach. As technology continues to transform the corporate and legal landscape at an accelerating pace, clients wish to retain a law firm that can provide agile, robust and cost efficient solutions, which are specifically tailored to suit their ever-changing demands. Byrne Wallace understands these changing market conditions and in response provides real support for its clients in achieving their goals. By combining the highest level of legal knowledge with a unique proactive approach, Byrne Wallace showcases its ability to adapt for the benefit of its clients, whilst staying true to the values which made it exceptional in the first place.

Having worked at a commercial firm for the last three years, I understand how the business of a law firm works and what the role of a solicitor requires and entails. Working as a paralegal at Mishcon de Reya, I have been at the forefront of numerous high value High Court and LCIA proceedings. This experience has provided me with in-depth legal knowledge, case management and overall strategising skills. I am an analytical and agile thinker and often have to put this skill to use when considering vast amounts of complex legal data. Often working to tight Court deadlines, I am proactive and efficient and pride myself on my ability to think outside the box. I also have excellent communication skills, gained through daily correspondence with clients and counsel and having worked interdepartmentally with the Corporate, Real Estate, Tax and Private teams. This experience has taught me that communication is key for seamless team work when a deadline is impending. Last minute changes to a statement of case, witness statement or exhibit can often arise just before a filing deadline which increases pressure and can sometimes cause problems, however I have learned how to remain calm in high pressured situations and ensure that attention to detail is maintained in order to produce the highest quality of work.

Working closely with a Senior Partner and three Managing Associates on a daily basis, I have also gained exposure to Business Development and the role networking plays in the life of a solicitor. As well as having the ability to provide the best legal expertise, I understand that excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required in order to create and maintain relationships with clients and intermediaries, which in turn generates referrals and business for a firm. I am also experienced in dealing with administrative, PA, anti-money laundering and KYC tasks and I work closely with the accounting and compliance departments to ensure that my team meets both internal and regulatory standards.

Outside of work, I consider myself a serious foodie and keen explorer. I love to travel and am happiest when experiencing new cultures, people and local cuisine. With Europe on our door step, I often spend weekends wandering random cities with friends. I also make a huge effort to come home often to spend time with my family. Growing up on the coast, I also love being outdoors and am a keen hiker. My others interests include fitness, GAA, reading and photography. I also try to give back where I can and as I am now working full time, I do not undertake as much charity work as when I was studying at university. That said, my current firm has an excellent pro bono policy which I participate in and I get involved with as many bake sales, used clothes sales and Christmas collections as I can every year. I also support Marie Curie and MacMillan cancer charities as they are close to my heart. To date, my proudest achievements are self-funding my third level education and becoming the first person within my immediate family be third-level educated and being admitted to the NY Bar aged 23.

I should be chosen for the Byrne Wallace Trainee Development Programme because I possess the academic ability, initiative and interpersonal skills required to succeed at Byrne Wallace. Ambitious, motivated and commercially astute, I share the same core values as the firm and am ready to progress my career, starting as an Byrne Wallace Trainee.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to attend an interview for which I am available at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine M. Maguire