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Dublin

A94 DD29

6th October 2023

Human Resource Department

ByrneWallace LLP

88 Harcourt Street,

Saint Kevin’s,

Dublin 2,

D02 DK18

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: 2024 Trainee Solicitor Programme - Ciara Daly – 4th Year Student - BCL European**

I am a final year UCD Law student and I am seeking the opportunity to participate in your Trainee Solicitor Programme. Not only do I have a keen interest in law but I also believe that I have the attributes that will enable me to be successful in my pursuit of a legal career.

My love of English and History at school perhaps first sparked my desire to study law in college. An element of English that I loved was learning how to analyse various topics from different perspectives and to put forward arguments which were concise, coherent and persuasive. A legal career will help me to advance and nurture these skills when dealing with complex legal issues. In my studies of History at the Leaving Certificate level, I found that there was a clear correlation between societal changes and the law. For example, in studying the women’s suffragette’s movement and the Civil Rights Movement in America, I found it interesting how the law and legislation played such a significant role in the ultimate successes of these campaigns.

During my law degree, I really enjoyed learning about more recent examples of the law reflecting societal change and development. Two examples which I found particularly interesting were in the area of privacy and banking law. Firstly, with the rapid development of new technologies, EU and Irish law has had to account for the increased concern for our privacy and we therefore saw the birth of the revolutionary General Data Protection Regulation. Secondly, in the area of banking law, a prominent Irish example of the need for legislation to be implemented as a result of a societal issue, was the banking crisis in 2008. A number of provisions were put in place in order to curb the effects the crisis had on the Irish economy, such as the Credit Institutions (Financial Support) Act 2008.

I believe that I possess many of the attributes that are required to become a good lawyer. These include good communication and analytical skills and the ability to empathise and work with others. My natural curiosity will also be of great value to me in the legal world and will enable me to rigorously investigate complex legal issues and find the best solution to the issues at hand. Since a young age, I have always had a desire to better understand the environment around me. My studies of Irish and French law to date have allowed my curiosity to flourish. Learning about different legal systems has not only enabled me to critically assess the characteristics of common law and civil law systems, it has also helped me to understand how Ireland operates as the only remaining common law country in the European Union.

I would love to train with ByrneWallace for a number of reasons. It is a full service law firm and I wish to be an environment which exposes me to many different practice areas and clients. The trainee rotation system offered by ByrneWallace will enable me to gain such diverse exposure. I also wish to train in a firm which encourages education and learning from colleagues in an approachable, supportive and open learning environment. At the moment, I am particularly interested in areas involving the public sector such as litigation, administrative law and EU law, in which ByrneWallace is ranked in Tier 1 of the Legal500.

I believe that I would make a very valuable contribution to your traineeship programme. I have a balanced set of academic and personal skills which were further developed during my studies in Université Panthéon-Assas. My time in Paris not only challenged my ability to be independent, it also challenged me academically. The necessity to learn and sit exams exclusively through French tested my resilience and adaptability. The oral examinations tested my French language skills and helped me to become more confident and self-assured. Overall, I found the experience demanding but very worthwhile in enabling me to develop my skill set.

I should be very grateful if you would give my application your consideration and I attach my Curriculum Vitae for your attention.

Yours faithfully

Ciara Daly