Ciara O’Gara,

27 The Emerald,

The Grange Apartments,

Brewery Road,

Stillorgan,

Dublin 18.

18th October 2017

ByrneWallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

St Kevin’s,

Dublin 2.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Ciara O'Gara and I am writing to express my interest in the ByrneWallace traineeship programme. I am currently in my final year of undergraduate studies at University College Dublin and I will be graduating in September 2018 with a degree in Law with French Law. The first two years of my programme focused on the core Irish law modules including contract law, constitutional law, European Union law and property law. In addition I studied French language and French public and private law in depth. Most recently, I spent the third year of my degree studying at Université Toulouse 1 Capitole in France. During my time in France I earned a diploma in European Union law, while also greatly improving my fluency in French. I am currently studying a variety of law modules including intellectual property law, media law and employment law, and I will be completing a dissertation in French law in the coming semester.

My initial attraction to a career in law stemmed from the fast-paced lifestyle and varied work of a solicitor, coupled with the exhilaration of working on global cases which often hit the headlines of financial newspapers. As I have progressed through my studies at UCD, I have consistently enjoyed problem solving and understanding complex legal issues. A career in law would accommodate these tasks, be it through drafting a contract for a client or researching another jurisdiction in order to fully accommodate a client’s needs. Furthermore, a career in law requires a strong international outlook, which I have developed both through my studies and time spent working abroad. I have great interest in the French language and culture, and have spent several periods living and working in France. These experiences have changed my outlook and given me the ability to look at situations and solve problems in new and interesting ways.

The role of a solicitor is increasingly that of a business advisor to commercial clients and accordingly having business acumen is a relevant attribute. I have recently completed an internship in the tax department of PwC, where I learned valuable professional skills and greatly improved my commercial awareness, fundamental attributes for any solicitor. This, coupled with my experience working in various part-time jobs both in Ireland and abroad, has enhanced my understanding of how different businesses have different goals and needs. Furthermore, my work experience has been of the variety that has allowed me to develop excellent interpersonal skills and I have thoroughly enjoyed providing an excellent client based service, which will be advantageous in my career as a solicitor.

Having researched several law firms, ByrneWallace stood out to me as a firm with a forward-thinking and innovative approach where my individuality will be valued and my growth fostered. It is important to me to find a working environment where I will be able to learn as much as possible, as I am constantly looking for opportunities to develop my knowledge and skills, and I believe the trainee programme at ByrneWallace will provide me with this. The structure of a training programme with a focus on developing top legal skills and commercial knowledge is exactly what I am looking for, and I believe as a trainee at ByrneWallace I will be able to work to my full potential and succeed. ByrneWallace strikes me as a personable firm with a focus on teamwork and success. I recognise from my previous work experience the importance of having a strong team in the workplace. I believe the firm’s values are in line with mine, particularly having read about ByrneWallace’s dedication to corporate social responsibility and giving back. All of these factors show me that ByrneWallace would be the right fit for me.

I am excited at the prospect of working at ByrneWallace and I would like to thank you very much for your time and consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Ciara O’Gara