**24 Ashfield Road**

**Ranelagh**

**Dublin 6**

**17th October 2017**

**ByrneWallace**

**88 Harcourt Street**

**Dublin 2**

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Claire Bulman and I am writing to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme at ByrneWallace. I graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in Law and French in 2016 and I am currently a Legal Analyst at Brightflag, a legal startup. I passed my first six FE1 examinations in Autumn 2016 and Spring 2017. I intend to sit the remaining two examinations in Spring 2018.

I am seeking to train in a commercial law firm as it entails working with clients of the highest calibre, and engaging in legal work which is intellectually challenging and business-focused. In my current role at Brightflag, I have gained significant insight into the corporate legal market, and into the high standard expected of solicitors who are engaged by large multinationals and financial institutions. In my view, this practical exposure sets me apart as a potential trainee. ByrneWallace’s reputation as one of Ireland’s leading commercial firms precedes it. However, it is not simply the prestige of working at the firm which appeals to me. ByrneWallace stands out to me for its forward-thinking and fast-growing nature. For example, the fact that it has established a specialised Brexit practice group to respond to the needs of its clients, and its clear dedication to innovation and technology, with clients such as Zalando. The value placed on innovation is something which is in line with my own approach to my work.

Training and qualifying as a solicitor in ByrneWallace would afford me the opportunity to learn from Ireland’s most renowned solicitors. The firm clearly emphasises learning through practical experiences by way of partner supervision and by emphasising on-the-job experience and genuine engagement with legal projects. This focus on learning and development, as well as the fact that the firm encourages trainees to participate in charitable and social events which are in line with my own interests and acitivities, is something which I find attractive as I hope not only to train with ByrneWallace, but to have a successful career at the firm post-qualification.

Through my studies, my work experience and my extra-curricular activities, I have honed skills which I believe are necessary for a career in commercial law. Thanks to my current role in a fast-growing startup with high-profile clients, I have gained a client-focused approach to my work and a greater understanding of the business of law, which will aid me in my in work as a trainee in ByrneWallace. In my previous role as a Legal Intern at FLAC, I developed an analytical, solutions-oriented approach to often complex legal problems and I feel that this helped to bridge the gap between my legal studies and the reality of legal practice. I took ownership of activities such as legal drafting and research for FLAC’s strategic litigation work, including the recent Schrems II case in the High Court, as well as synthesising and condensing large volumes of information as part of my work on the PILA Bulletin and on FLAC’s new Landlord and Tenant Law guide.

During my Law and French degree, I spent an academic year studying at Sciences Po, Paris. As one of France’s most prestigious political science schools, my time at Sciences Po strengthened my understanding of the wider political and economic context in which the law operates. My involvement in public-speaking competitions such as TCD Law Society Mock Trial and my time spent rowing up to my Leaving Certificate developed my ability to work under pressure and to work as part of a team. Given ByrneWallace’s collaborative values, these transferable skills will be beneficial to me as a trainee.

I consider ByrneWallace’s culture, focus and drive to complement my own and I believe that I would be a good fit for the firm as a trainee and thereafter as a qualified solicitor. I view the Trainee Solicitor Programme as the ideal next step in my legal career, and I would consider myself extremely fortunate to be chosen for this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Bulman