Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2,

D02 DK18,

Ireland

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Claire O’Reilly. I am a BCL(International) graduate from University College Cork. I have also recently completed an LLM programme at the University of Edinburgh and I am awaiting my final result. I am writing to apply for a trainee position at Byrne Wallace. I feel confident that Byrne Wallace would be the right next step for me in my academic career, allowing me to further develop my interest in family and child law. Byrne Wallace would be a positive environment in which to learn and develop my skills as a solicitor. I would also endeavour to do my utmost to perform to the high standards set by the firms well respected traineeship programme.

Having come first in my class in the course ‘Family Law: Family Relationships’ in my undergraduate degree in UCC, I established a good understanding of domestic family law in Ireland. In order to further that academic understanding of Irish Family Law, I completed an internship at the Pope’s Quay Law Centre where I was given the very valuable opportunity to sit in on cases involving TUSLA. I gained a huge respect both for the work of the Legal Aid Board and also of TUSLA. It gave me a knowledge of family law that would have been impossible to obtain in a lecture theatre. I then gained a first class honours grade in Family Law in Comparative Perspectives during my LLM programme in UoE. This course allowed me to utilise both the theoretical and practical knowledge I had acquired of Irish Family Law by comparing it to family law in other jurisdictions. I was required to critically analyse our current legislation on matters such as adoption, surrogacy and marriage. Through the seminar format, I discussed these topics with my peers from varying jurisdictions and academic backgrounds. This greatly benefitted me, not only academically but also personally as I developed my communication skills and my understanding of cultural and political differences and how they can influence our perspective on legal developments. A place in the traineeship programme in Byrne Wallace would be an invaluable opportunity to further my interest in Family law by allowing me to see first hand the incredible work being done by the firm in the area of Child Care Law.

Throughout my time both in UCC and in UoE I took part in academic and non-academic pursuits which gave me the skills to make the most of the valuable opportunity to take part in your traineeship programme. As the Recording Secretary of the UCC Law Society I developed my communication and team work skills, which I utilised in my part time position as a waitress at Jacques and The Wine Tavern. My time management skills were truly put the test during my year in Edinburgh where I studied full time and also worked part time as a shop assistant at Dr Martens, a position I enjoyed so much that I accepted a full-time position upon completing my studies. Being offered said position enables me to enjoy the amazing city of Edinburgh before I return home in 2020 and begin preparing for the FE1s. I feel confident that these skills would enable me to rise to the challenge that training in a full service, ambitious firm such as Byrne Wallace would provide.

This trainseeship programme in particular appeals to me due to the firms impressive standing not only in the area of Child Care Law but also in Litigation and Dispute Resolution. Although these are the areas I am currently most interested in engaging with, the knowledge that the firm places such emphasis on mentorship and providing their trainees with experience in a wide range of practice areas assures me that whichever departments I am fortunate enough to be placed in while completing my rotations will offer an engaging and challenging experience. This assurance is strengthened by the existence of the Learning and Development programme provided by the firm.

Lastly, I have a passionate interest in gender equality, particularly in the workplace and in media. The work that the firm has done as recently as September, holding a seminar for female entrepreneurs is heartening for a young woman beginning her legal career to see. A firm which reached 50/50 female to male ratio on their partnership team in 2018 have clearly prioritised gender equality to the highest level in the firm. It would be an incredible privilege to work at a firm leading the way in female representation in law.

I have enclosed my CV within this application. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire O’Reilly