1849 Washington Ave S,
Minneapolis,
MN 55454,
Apt 446.

8th February 2016

Byrne Wallace,
87-88 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Conor Gilheany and I am writing to apply for your 2016 Summer Internship Programme. I am a third year B.C.L. Law with Economics student in University College Dublin, and I am currently on international exchange in the United States of America at the University of Minnesota for the academic year.

The primary reason I am applying to the programme is to gain an insight into what it is like to work at a leading Irish firm. Working on real, important issues alongside trainees and partners is a very exciting prospect for me and the opportunity to experience working at Byrne Wallace before applying for a training contract is very valuable to me. Also, the opportunity for feedback on my performance at the end of the programme would provide me with a focus on what areas of my work I can improve upon and develop before applying for a training contract.

I have a strong interest in dispute resolution, and in my time in Minnesota I have taken a negotiation class and am currently enrolled in a cooperative lawyering class. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with the Byrne Wallace dispute resolution team during the internship, especially given the reputation of the team as a whole and the experience of Jon Legorburu. I feel I could gain a huge insight into this area through the internship and by working with such a talented team I could develop key skills useful during a training contract.

I am drawn to Byrne Wallace given the diversity of work the firm does in a wide range of areas. The quality of work and high standard of client care is shown through the Lexcel Standard of Excellence award the firm won. The quality of training given to trainees is another reason I am interested in the firm coupled with the open culture the firm supports. I like the idea of working at a firm where people are approachable and supportive of one another.

During my time at university I have been involved in debating, mooting and negotiation. In doing so, I have developed my communication, teamwork and legal skills. Furthermore, I recently took a class on interviewing, counselling and negotiation here in Minneapolis which focuses on how to speak to, and get the best results for, your clients. I feel this experience will greatly help me in my career, and particularly in working at your firm as I am aware of the emphasis you put on effective communication between clients and team members.

Last year I was the secretary of the student legal service in U.C.D., a role which I enjoyed very much and gave me the opportunity to develop a lot of skills useful to my legal career, in particular communication and organisational skills. In working with the S.L.S. I got to the semi-finals in both our negotiation and mooting competitions, helped to organise the very successful Student Legal Convention and had an article published titled “The Right to Privacy” in the annual S.L.S. publication. I hope to be involved with the society next year when I return to U.C.D. and am considering running for an important committee position.

Outside the realms of law and university, I enjoy playing music. I have been playing the guitar since I was twelve and have played a number of gigs, both by myself and as part of bands. Up until last Christmas I regularly busked, which was both a good source of income for me and a lot of fun. Busking gave me the chance to develop my performance skills and confidence, as well as giving me the ability to tailor a song list that will appeal to as many people as possible. I am currently participating in the University of Minnesota Law School’s annual musical production, which this year is *“Minnesota Jones”*. I also enjoy playing football and currently play for Mondale FC, the law school team here in Minneapolis.

I applied to participate in UCD’s international exchange programme while I was in second year and after an interview with the head of the programme was offered a place to attend law school at the University of Minnesota. My reasons for applying to the programme were not purely academic, as I also wanted to experience living by myself in a different country. I am currently working part time on campus in Papa Johns as a pizza chef and cashier and also participating in the judicial externship programme which gives me the opportunity to work for a judge alongside her legal clerks. As part of the externship I am assigned a number of legal writing and research tasks, and am currently working on researching the relevant law for an impending felony trial. My experience as an extern has given me the chance to develop key lawyer skills and see a number aspects of the American litigation process.
In Ireland I am currently working as a presiding officer during elections and referendums having been promoted from polling clerk after the Local and European Elections of 2014.

As I am studying in America and will not be home until May I am available to participate in a telephone or Skype interview. I am happy to arrange a time which best suits you for such an interview. If you have any questions regarding my application please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the programme and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Gilheany