My name is Emer Lynam, I am the Judicial Researcher to the District Court, reporting to Her Hounour Rosemary Horgan. I studied law in University College Dublin and have sat five FE1s to date.

I started working in the High Court in February 2016 as Judicial Assistant to Mr. Justice Henry Abbott, and continued until February 2017. I co-authored a paper on Adoption Law with Judge Abbott, which was delivered at the World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights in June 2017. I will be co-authoring another paper with him in 2018. I was given the opportunity to work for the President of the District Court as a Judicial Researcher. I thought this was a good opportunity given the variety of the work involved with the role. I was attracted by the challenge of being the only researcher to 63 judges.

Since then my skills in legal research have significantly developed. I conduct research on legislation, and compose memorandums and bench books for judges. I’ve had the opportunity to meet with legal drafters when working with legislation, which has enhanced my understanding and interest of this field. I organise Quarterly Judges Training Sessions, which are learning events to keep judges up to date on the law.

So far I have experience in Family Law and Divorce Litigation, Child law, Land Law, Personal Injuries, European Law and Road Traffic Law. The bulk of my knowledge is in Family and Child Law. I believe it is crucial at this point in my career to broaden my legal knowledge and that the best way to do that is to train and qualify in a commercial law firm.

Byrne Wallace stands out to me for two reasons: Its reputation for legal excellence, and collegiate work environment. The firm has won a wealth of awards for the high level expertise it provides to clients, and has grown significantly in recent years. I am convinced that I would receive the best legal training on offer if I were accepted to the trainee program.

As Byrne Wallace is smaller than some other commercial firms, I would be exposed to a more diverse range of clients, projects and practice areas. This will allow me to make an informed decision on what area of law I would like to specialize in after I qualify as a solicitor. I am interested in law in all of its forms, enthusiastic to begin a new challenge, and explore new opportunities.

I've played the Irish harp since I the age of 9 and continue to this day. Playing music is a great way to unwind, collaborate with other musicians and meet new people. I'm interested in politics and current affairs, mainly those affecting Ireland's interests, but have a strong interest in global issues such as climate change and innovative ways of combatting it.

If you have any questions relating to my candidature, please do not hesitate to contact me. References available on request.

Thank you for reading my cover letter.