Coolkelure,

Dunmanway,

Co.Cork.

16th October 2017

Beth Onslow,

HR Administrator,

Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2.

Dear Ms. Onslow,

I am very interested in applying for the Trainee Solicitor Programme in Byrne Wallace, as advertised on your website. I am currently in my final year of Law(LLB) in Dublin Institute of Technology, where so far I have gained a grade average of II.I.

During my research into Byrne Wallace, I was immediately attracted to the firm’s forward thinking and progressive nature. The quality of the trainee programme is what really stood out to me and set it apart from others. I was truly convinced that Byrne Wallace was the perfect fit for me when I observed the friendly and approachable manner of the staff during the trainee open evening. After speaking to current trainees I was welcomed by the enthusiasm they had when asked about the firm. A huge benefit that assured me when applying for the traineeship, is the open door policy. This would be an invaluable experience to learn from the experts in their field, while also building a life-time connection. All of these factors give me a real sense of a team based environment, where questions are encouraged and answered.

I particularly noted the board range of practice and specialised areas. For me, this is an element I deem valuable for my own career progression within the firm. As the firm caters for a diverse range of sectors, I was immediately drawn to the Healthcare sector, more specifically the area of Child Care Law. I believe I would be able to benefit immensely from the expertise of partner Sinéad Kearney in these areas. Personally, I grew up in a large family household, surrounded by children and people. Naturally, I developed a passion to try and help people. Being able to understand and communicate with the needs of children was apart of this. As a result, I completed work experience in a local national school with special needs children. I will admit that this was extremely challenging area, yet at the same time, ultimately rewarding. On a daily basis I was interacting with the children through games, homework and active learning, in order to retain their attention. This experience then gave me the courage to begin working with the Suas Educational Development Programme in Dublin. In this role, I volunteer as a Literacy Mentor with children in national schools. This is an eight week programme whereby you engage with children from all socio-economic backgrounds and help to develop their reading, writing and speaking skills. By the end of the semester I am determined to have each child’s literacy percentile over the nation average. As I am a firm believer that having the opportunity to help someone progress and excel in their own abilities, is the greatest achievement that anyone can make.

Following on from this, I became intrigued to find out about the firm’s promotion of a good work/life balance. It is encouraging to see participation in team building, sport and mindfulness activities from the firm’s staff members. This is something I am fully capable of achieving as I am currently striking this balance between my commitments with work, college and volunteering. Along with this, the Corporate Responsibility Programme is what really showed me that, not only would I fit in with the firm but also with the staff. The volunteer aspect of the programme is what also captivated me, as I can see that each member of staff is devoted to making a difference. This is something I am very passionate about as I have been involved in volunteering for many years. In the past, I have volunteered as a fundraiser for Saint Vincent De Paul as well as helping to fundraise for local communities. More recently, I was appointed the Public Relations Officer of Operation Smile. This is a charity society where all event donations go to fund children with cleft palettes, in order to gain access to medical treatment. In my role as PRO, I am constantly thinking of different ways to promote our society and events. So far, I have learned the skill of providing informative and creative content through social media outlets, conducting myself in a professional manner when representing the society and finally the ability to work alongside my fellow committee members.

I have also uncovered from your firm’s website the involvement in the many charitable races, such as the Calcutta run. From a young age I have been engaged in both sport and music. I have been apart of athletic teams since the age of eight, competing in relays, sprints and mini marathons. Additional, I have captained various hockey teams, competing in league and cup competitions. As valid team member, I have learned to listen and communicate with my teammates in an effective manner, while also demonstrating leadership skills. Along with my involvement in sport, I have a deep passion for music and am self taught on the piano and tin whistle. For many years, I have been apart of musicals, choirs and dance groups in primary and secondary school and now in college. These are only a small portion of my passions and interests and I would have no difficultly in applying the skills I have gained into the role of a trainee solicitor.

I am available to attend an interview at any convenient time and I look forward to discuss my application further.

Yours sincerely,

Erika Kingston