Coolkelure,

Dunmanway,

Co.Cork.

 19th October 2018

Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2.

Dear Sirs,

I am very interested in applying for the Traineeship Programme in Byrne Wallace, as advertised on your website. I am currently undergoing an LL.M in Children’s Rights and Family Law in UCC. I hold a degree in Law(LL.B) from Dublin Institute of Technology, where I have gained a II.I.

Unlike most primary school students, I have always known what I wanted to be ‘when I grow up’. To this day this aspiration has never left my side. By studying law in my undergrad, I have begun my journey on the long road to becoming a qualified solicitor. In order to achieve this, I have undertaken numerous legal experiences to better shape my understanding of the class room knowledge and put it into real life practical situations. I have been exposed into the world of the legal sector through many avenues, such as property, litigation, family and commercial. Of which, I now know that the commercial side of law is the road I wish to pursue, due to the fast paced nature of the transactions, as well as having each case bring something different to challenge you.

With that said, I have chosen to study an LL.M in Children’s Rights and Family Law. This has always sparked a real interest in me, in a way that I feel I would be able to help people and make a difference in people’s everyday lives. The work that, as a class, we achieve through the Clinics is a great example. This is thought to be an avenue by which solicitors or barristers may have queries about a case and we would research the matter, come up with an argument that may be presented at court. As well as this, we are also researching and preparing submissions for future pieces of legislations, such as the emergence of a Family Court system in Ireland. This experience alone, along with being involved with the clinic in UCC Flac society have really given me a sink or swim taste of how the procedure of applying the law would work in a real life setting, of real life cases.

In all events, the year of 2018 has been a year of adventure for me. On the one hand I finished and completed my undergraduate degree, and on the other one week after finishing my exams I flew to live in New York City by myself for the summer. This was a highly daunting experience but one I took in my stride, instead of fearing it I embraced it. While in New York I worked in the customer service industry by waitressing on a cruise dinner boat. As a highly busy environment, whereby you are constantly running around on your feet, remembering detailed orders and ensuring an excellent stay, it was a huge leap for me that pushed me outside of my comfort zone and engaged in me in experiencing different cultures and interactions. I have always prided myself on organisation and diligence, which helped me achieve employee of the month for two months in a row. On my return home to Ireland, although I was sad to leave I was happy to be home with such a powerful confidence and ability to be diverse in any situation.

As I know that Byrne Wallace are involved in helping charitable organisations, from speaking to current trainees at the firm, I was thrilled. Ever since I was younger I have loved to help others, through the means of volunteering and still do to this day. During school, I organised a team to help build a Christmas grotto for less fortunate kids, to meet Santa, play and have fun. This project took 5 months to complete, as all the art work was completed by ourselves, organising funding, reaching out and attacking other volunteers to take part as well as getting Santa to attend. In more recent times, I have volunteered with Suas in primary school to help children with their literacy skills, reading and writing and to also boost their confidence both in and outside the classroom. During this time, I also became heavily involved in a college society, Operation Smile Ireland, an organisation to help children with cleft palettes. I became the PR of the society, simply due to the fact that I believed in the organisation so much that I felt that not a lot of people knew about it.

Finally, I would consider myself a big sports fan, playing and supporting. I have captained various different levels of hockey teams, and continue to play while at college. I competed in Athletic competitions during school, and train for half marathons on an annual basis.

I pride myself on being being to strike a good life-work balance to incorporate my interests into everyday life, which does take a lot of organisation and motivation, such qualities I will be bringing with into the work-a-day world of a solicitor.

Yours sincerely,

Erika Kingston.