Dear Beth,

I have just finished an LLM in International Commercial Law at University College Dublin and am writing to apply for the trainee position at ByrneWallace.

Having studied law in Italy and Ireland, I am keen to gain practical experience in your firm as a trainee.

During my undergraduate degree (at the Link Campus University in my native Italy), I developed a strong interest in Common Law systems, writing and defending my graduating thesis based on a comparative study of Civil and Common Law corporate governance systems (including the English and Australian systems). This led me to choose to study my LLM in Ireland, a country I had visited and fallen in love with some years previously. My LLM has allowed me to develop my interest in commercial law further, focusing in particular on the law affecting international transactions.

Spending four months working with a team of lawyers in a commercial law firm in Catania last summer, has taught me the extent to which being a team-player is essential to the practice of a solicitor. During this period, I had the opportunity to work on several corporate insolvency cases as well as transactions between private and public entities. I had direct contact with clients and with the counterparties' representatives on a regular basis. I also represented clients in person before the Court of Justice of Catania. For example, I worked as part of a team which had to defend a director of an agricultural consortium against an action for bankruptcy. In that instance, we were able to prove that, notwithstanding that our client was one of the directors when the consortium became insolvent, he was not liable for the *mala gestio* of the company’s finances.

I am calm and capable of working under pressure, something I demonstrated when I interned for 6 months at a criminal law firm in Catania during what was a very busy period for the firm. This work experience allowed me to deal with complicated matters, developed my time management skills and taught me to prioritise tasks. For example, I was part of the team working on a so-called “maxi-trial”, which is a trial with more than 10 defendants. The team had only a few weeks to prepare their case, as the client had dismissed his previous firm and engaged ours only one month before the hearing. Two colleagues and I spent were asked to carry on research to determine the best strategy for the client. We identified a procedural issue which prevented the prosecutor calling the witnesses needed, and, as a direct consequence, the judge stated there were no more grounds to continue with the trial of our client.

In 2012, I took a gap year and went to Australia, with the aim of working, expanding my horizons, challenging myself and improving my English. As my CV will show, I worked with people from a diverse range of backgrounds and in a great variety of sectors: as a farmer, a waiter and a door to door salesperson. This allowed me to develop my interpersonal and communication skills, and taught me a lot about how to manage challenging customers and the characteristics needed to work successfully in a service industry. I believe this will stand me in good stead as a legal intern/ trainee solicitor needs to deal with internal and external clients well, sometimes under stressful conditions.

I am particularly interested in ByrneWallace because I want to gain excellent training and experience by

having the opportunity to be a trainee at your firm. The firm has various expertise in different areas of law, some of

which particularly interest me, such as Commercial Contracts, Banking & Finance, and Corporate Governance and Compliance. Furthermore, in 2017, it has been recognised by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners as one of the best Irish law firms. This makes ByrneWallace a great law firm, one in which I would like to work for.

I was also particularly interested to read about your CSR policy. Indeed, I believe that lawyers can do a great deal to give back to society, and this would be something I would be keen to get involved with. In fact, following my undergraduate degree I took part in a social project in Catania sponsored by the Presidency of the Council of Minister of Italy. In that occasion, I had the opportunity of teaching disadvantaged young people about their legal rights, by leading half-day seminars over a number of weeks. During those seminars I was successful in engaging the participants, who initially had a very scarce interest in such topics, by PowerPoint presentations, casting videos, organising working groups and small competitions in order to involve them to be the protagonists of those meetings.

For all these reasons, I believe I could make a substantial contribution to your office if offered the opportunity. I

hope to meet with you in person to discuss my qualifications in further detail. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully, Federico Nicolosi