To whom it may concern,

As quoted by William Butler Yeats, ‘Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire’. For me, a traineeship is an opportunity to enhance the skills I have learned throughout my undergraduate degree while gaining value practical experience. I have just graduated from NUIG with a BA in Legal Studies and English. This year I am completing a one year LLB programme at NUIG.

I enjoy new challenges, working through problems and learning new skills. I think a programme such as this offers an invaluable insight into the many careers and routes available in Law. I am of the opinion that due to the general solitary nature of studying law, it is imperative to take opportunities such as this to allow interaction and practical application of knowledge.

I am hardworking, reliable and I have strong communication skills. I took part in a Law education programme for TY students in 2010/11. This led to a mock trials competition in Loughrea Court House and here I was awarded the title of Individual Best Speaker. I was also awarded the All Ireland Individual Best Speaker Award at the Irish Federation of University Women’s public speaking competition during my time at Gort Community School. This year, I am taking the Moot Court module at NUIG.

Last year, I was a CEIM student leader. This was a peer assisted scheme led by second and third year students in order to ease first year student’s transition to university life. I ran library and court house visits. I also assisted students in preparing for their end of year oral argument by giving a class on public speaking skills. This year, I am the Vice-Auditor of the FLAC Society.

My interests academically are varied. However, I have a passion for Criminal Law, Criminology and the Irish Prison System. I am open to a seat in any area of Law during my traineeship. I have examined the areas Byrne Wallace works in and there are many which interest me greatly, including, litigation and dispute resolution and health and social care.

To finish, I believe that who we become in our professional careers is born from the opportunities we take during our time as students, both in an academic and non-academic sense. Ayn Rand, a Russian-American novelist, playwright, philosopher and screenwriter stated, ‘the ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity’.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Frances Whelan