Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Gloria Nkencho. I am an LLM graduate from the National University of Ireland, Galway. I am currently an FE1 candidate and an aspiring solicitor. I am keen in obtaining a training contract within Bryne Wallace. I believe Byrne Wallace would be a quintessential place for me to train for several reasons. Firstly, for its growth and consistent excellence. In 2016, the firm was awarded ‘Legal Firm of the Year’ at the AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards. Since then, there has been a continuation of awards and recognitions such as being shortlisted for the Irish firm of the year for two consecutive years, awarded two ‘Excellence in Business’ awards by the public sector magazine, ranked as a top M&A legal advisor for two consecutive years and much more. This shows the firm’s passion for excellence in providing top-quality services for their clients.

Secondly, the firm has a positive and practical approach in its Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. The firm has been involved in numerous charitable events and programmes such as, the workplace placements from St John of God, the Pink Friday in 2012 in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland and the contributions to the Women's Refuge Appeal. Charitable giving and volunteerism are part of the Byrne Wallace culture. This appeals to my passion to help the less privileged through volunteering and charitable work. In 2012, I sat on the youths’ panel for Jigsaw. I also undertook a nine-month placement at the University of Greenwich Legal Advice Centre in London while completing my Erasmus year. The Legal Advice Centre, along with solicitors working Pro Bono, provided clients with free legal advice. I assisted different solicitors as they conducted interviews and advised clients. I was able to conduct fact-finding interviews with clients. Additionally, I worked in the East London Family Court. Under the supervision of a solicitor, I was able to approach potential clients to offer our help desk service.

Thirdly, Byrne Wallace shows a strong support for leadership. The firm has an active involvement in The Real Deal conference, which aims to help business leaders and inspire the next generation of Irish business success stories. Business and leadership are paramount in my ambitions to succeed in the legal field. In secondary school, I took part in the Fingal young enterprise where my team came first place. I was chosen by Trinity College to complete a “Pathway to Law” program and I also obtained a 1:1 in the business aspect of my Civil Law Degree. As the Chairperson of my secondary school student council, the former Vice President of the Maynooth University Afro-Caribbean Society and the current President of the African Student Association of Ireland, I have worked closely with different people in providing leadership training to succeed in their respective fields. This has also strengthened my ability to work well, within a team but also have the initiative to work alone.

I completed a 4-week internship program in Matheson within the commercial Real Estate Department. Working in this firm piqued my interest in commercial affairs and transactions. I worked alongside partners, associates, and legal executives. I drafted letters, research notes, scheduled property documents, undertook several research assignments and participated in a product pitch. This internship gave me the first-hand experience on life in a busy commercial law firm.

I spent one week in a solicitor’s office, Ad’reme Solicitors as a paralegal and receptionist. I undertook legal research, drafting pleadings, client file management, answering the phone and scheduling client appointments.

My legal and non-legal experiences along with my passion to learn and grow within the legal sector, make me a strong candidate for a position within Bryne Wallace. Thank you for time and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Gloria Nkencho.