29th September 2022

Byrne Wallace LLP,

88 Harcourt St,

Dublin 2

To whom it may concern,

 My name is Laura Kennedy, and I am writing to apply for the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace LLP. I recently graduated from University College Dublin with a First Class Honours degree in Law with Social Justice, and am currently undertaking an LLM in Children’s Rights and Family Law at University College Cork.

 I have had a lifelong interest in current affairs and equal access to justice. My college degree has always been geared towards combating injustice and critically analysing legal mechanisms, with emphasis on team collaboration and independent research. I have a particular interest in Child Care Law, as evidenced by my choice to undertake further study in this area. I believe this is a dynamic, delicate area of law that is faced with many contemporary legal complexities. Studying Children’s Rights at a postgraduate level has allowed me to gain an even deeper understanding of these issues, and how the law can be used as a social tool to protect and vindicate rights of the most vulnerable. While Child Care Law is the area I am most passionate about, I am also greatly interested in Employment Law, Property Law and Litigation and Dispute Resolution. I studied these areas in depth during my time at UCD, and I am currently completing a module in Alternative Dispute Resolution at UCC. I believe the skills I will gain from this course will be invaluable in the future, especially when practising in areas such as Child Care and Employment Law.

Byrne Wallace’s dedication to providing efficient and accessible service, as well as its renowned reputation as a full service law firm is what inspired me to apply. As someone interested in combining a knowledge of social inequality with the study of law to provide innovative legal solutions, I know that by completing a traineeship at Byrne Wallace, I will have the best possible start to my legal career. As someone interested in Child Care Law, working at a law firm that is at the forefront of this area is important to me. I met a Child Care Law solicitor from Byrne Wallace at an event when I was in my second year of UCD, and listening to her speak with such knowledge and passion about her work is what cemented my interest in this field. Byrne Wallce has the largest dedicated team of solicitors in this area, as well as providing advice and training to TUSLA and other bodies advocating for the rights of the child. I believe that working in a team that works to update legislation, is committed to providing excellent service and has comprehensive legal expertise in this field would allow me to start my legal career in the most fulfilling, challenging and rewarding way.

I am a hard working, dedicated and enthusiastic individual who will give 100% to any task. As stated on my CV, I have been involved with a wealth of extra-curricular activities in university, such as interviewing esteemed guests for the UCD Law Society, and volunteering with UCD St Vincent de Paul. I received the prestigious President’s Award for my contribution to campus life. I remained consistently involved with these organisations throughout my college years, while also working part time and maintaining a First Class Honours degree. I gained invaluable skills from these experiences, including work-life balance, communication, organisation, interpersonal and critical thinking skills. I believe these skills will be a credit to me as I embark on my journey as a solicitor.

I believe my background, experiences and interests will enable me to be a valuable addition to the team at Byrne Wallace, and that I have the drive and interest required to fill the role. I would be extremely grateful for the opportunity to interview for the Trainee Programme.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Kennedy