**Lauren Correll:** No. 5 Cluny Manor, Killiney, Co. Dublin**:**  086 225 6596

**October 17th 2017**

**Dear Sir/Madam**

I am writing to apply for a highly coveted place on the Byrne Wallace Trainee Programme and have pleasure attaching my CV. The dream of becoming a Byrne Wallace lawyer has been long standing for me.  I have been working towards this application since my Transition Year work experience shadowing a barrister in the High Courts turned a potential into an intention, leading to a dedicated drive to achieve a First Class Honours and ranking second in the LLB this year.  As one of the top law firms in Ireland, I knew that this academic achievement would serve as a vital component in achieving my goal to become part of the team at Byrne Wallace.

I also appreciate that my educational achievements were but a part of this vision.  Whilst Byrne Wallace creates an environment supporting individuals who seek to obtain professional excellence and the job of a lawyer is one of the most intellectually challenging jobs that there is, my character, underpinned by strongly held beliefs and values, would equally matter to your selection process.  As I matured during my college education, I began to recognise that I would have the power to make a difference as a lawyer. You can change people’s lives and help them in numerous ways due to your unique position, one that extends beyond the letter of the law per se to principles and codes of ethics that govern and protect societies. When I was young, I admit, I was swept up by the glamour of the law (or apparent glamour!). I was taken by the prestige and sheer opulence that is demonstrated by the media. Throughout my studies I have realised that firstly, there is a lot more depth and meaning to the law and, secondly, that the lavishness doesn’t necessarily exist! I am passionate about entering into a world which essentially shapes our society.

Due to the constant changing and evolving society in which we live, the legal profession has diverse practice areas. Sub-specialties have arisen due to evolving technology and industry segmentation. I greatly appreciate the opportunity Byrne Wallace’s rich and diverse areas of expertise may afford me as I am keen to explore areas in which my composite of talents, skills and knowledge will lead to specialisations one day.

I am a keen admirer of the stance Byrne Wallace has taken in various other social initiatives above and beyond current best standards in Corporate Social Responsibilities.

I was particularly delighted to see that the firm supported International Women’s Day and the launch of the Women in Construction Network

As a woman, it is of course hugely important that the firm provides for the advancement of females in all practice areas.

Furthermore, the extent of charitable giving and donations is extremely admirable and is an excellent example of the level of social integrity incorporated into the firm, one which I would love to be a part of one day.

There are key areas of competence that I believe are essential to the effectiveness of any lawyer:  Firstly, a love for debating which was discovered by me at the dinner table with my family (causing some tension!), and when I joined the debating society in college, I developed a number of skills throughout this period such as my ability to read others and my creativity to persuade effectively. Secondly, research skills proved a crucial competency to develop and my case was greatly improved by a module I took in our final year, namely, Law & Society: Research Clinics. This involved a group project on the issue of mental health in prisons in Ireland. The third important competency of presentation skills was much enhanced through the opportunity afforded to us to practice and develop this skill. It was great to present the project we created to the Irish Penal Reform Trust. Lastly, but by no means least, working in a team and the degrees of social relational competencies needed to be an effective team player was equally enhanced during this module and various sporting activities.

In summary, I wholeheartedly believe I would be a strong addition to the firm – I am passionate, dedicated and have learnt the art of perseverance throughout my education. I am currently registering to sit the FE1’s and intend to sit the examinations in Spring and Autumn 2018, splitting them into two rounds of four exams.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to be selected for the next step in the application process with Byrne Wallace. If I am offered a place on the Trainee Solicitor Programme, I am ready to hit the ground running and help the firm to meet and exceed their expectations of success.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Correll