Gortroe,

Leap,

Co. Cork.

19/10/2017.

Byrne Wallace,
88 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2.

 To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to apply for the Trainee Programme I saw on the ByrneWallace website. I the right combination of skills for a career in law.

From a very young age, I was fascinated with criminal law. I was addicted to CSI books, televisions programmes and intrigued by the various visits from a past pupil who is now an undercover detective in America to my secondary school. When it was time for me to start seriously thinking of a career path, Ireland was in a deep recession and the Gardaí Síochána were no longer recruiting for their academy. In sixth year, I attended a law academy day held by the UCC School of Law where I sat in on lectures, participated in a mock Moot Court and engaged with staff, and immediately decided that this is what I wanted to study. While studying at undergraduate level, my fascination with criminal law dwindled a little. I clicked with modules such as Company Law, Competition Policy in the EU, Contemporary issues in Corporate Law and Property Law instantly. By way of example, I positioned in the top 10 students out of 94 in my final year Company Law: Fundamental Concepts and Doctrines exam.

I have recently completed an LLM (Taught Programme) in UCC, and have previously obtained a 2:1 BCL degree from UCC, positioning 6th out of a total of 51 students. Core modules during my undergraduate degree including Moot Court, Clinical Legal Skills (Research and Presentation) and the thesis as part of my postgraduate degree developed strong research, communication and presentation skills. In addition, I have undertaken unpaid work experience in a busy Cork City firm and learned some of the duties involved as a Solicitor. I gained skills such as client confidentiality and focus, professional aspects of client interaction, I noted the need for a solicitor to constantly update the client on the course of their case, and the need for solicitors to balance their work schedule and family life. The first-hand exposure cemented the idea that I wished to pursue a career in law.

I enjoy being challenged, reaping the rewards of the challenge and while developing my personal and professional skills. By way of example, in 2015, I ran for the position of Public Relations Officer for the 85th Session of the UCC Law Society. This required campaigning in lecture halls and a two minute presentation of my manifesto at the EGM. Due to nerves and my fear of public speaking, my two-minute, pre-rehearsed manifesto lasted thirty seconds where I summarised the main bullet points of my campaign. This incident haunted me for quite some time but I was determined to overcome this fear, especially as Moot Court is a core module in final year. In May 2015, I applied for a voluntary role as a Peer Support Leader (PSL) for the following academic year. This involved giving numerous presentations and guided tours around UCC Campus. After engaging in a number of these, the prospect of Moot Court did not seem as daunting. I communicated a well-researched legal submission to the Moot Court while observing courtroom etiquette without difficulty. Furthermore, my postgraduate degree required numerous presentations and viva examinations which I was more comfortable doing. While it would have been easy to ignore this fear, I volunteered as a PSL as I knew it had a focus on public speaking while simultaneously providing support for first year law students and it provided me with an opportunity to face a fear. Similarly, ByrneWallace offers opportunities for Trainees to develop legal, personal and professional skills to enable trainees to become successful lawyers, and the feedback provided at the end of each rotation would allow trainees to track their development in each of these areas.

As you can see from the attached CV, I have a wealth of experience in customer service over a six year period of work in the hospitality industry. This industry has a focus on communication skills, delivering a high standard of quality, being prompt and professional all of which are transferrable skills to the role of a Solicitor. I am able to work independently as well as part of a team which I learned through participation in various team sports, group projects and part-time work. Although, I do not have much experience in the Legal Sector, I am a quick learner and I am fully capable of adapting to new environments without delay, by way of example, I spent summer 2016 as a server in the United States and quickly adjusted to my surroundings. As a college student, I learned to balance work, college work, volunteering activities and a social life. Likewise, while I worked in the US a number of staff and management went on social outings every Monday which created a greater bond between staff and management and enhanced teamwork. The social outings and activities with ByrneWallace would have a similar effect between Associates, Partners, and Trainees. I believe my enthusiasm, skills and strong work ethic can make a positive contribution to ByrneWallace.

I intend to sit the Fe1 exams in March 2018 and October 2018 and I am hoping to start a traineeship in 2019, I can be contacted by email at marie.jennings94@gmail.com or by mobile at( 087) 0610900. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Faithfully,
Marie Jennings.