20-08 The Obel
62 Donegal Quay
Belfast

20th October 2016

To whom this concerns,

I wish to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme. I am a legal professional at Baker and McKenzie, FE1 candidate, and LL.M graduate of Trinity College Dublin. My interest in joining Byrne Wallace developed following meeting representatives of the firm at university careers fairs, and during my time at An Post, which I understand to be a client of the firm.

I want to become a corporate solicitor as I enjoy applying legal principals to solve empirical legal issues for businesses. I am fascinated by the way in which the law manifests itself in the corporate realm, particularly the way in which legal constraints shape the way in which companies do business. The fast paced nature of the corporate world intrigues me, as does the global nature of business. I want to work at an internationally focused corporate firm as the multi-jurisdictional nature of cross-boarder transactions presents engaging and complex challenges. Assisting businesses through legal advice is a rewarding experience and one where I may make a meaningful impact through my work.

I presently work as a Legal Professional at Baker and McKenzie, providing legal services to the firm's instructing offices across the globe. Working at a firm with a strong international focus has solidified my ambition to pursue a career as a corporate lawyer at Byrne Wallace, given the firm's elite international client base, and vast experience in dealing with complex multijurisdictional transactions, such as the firm's work on multi-jurisdictional loan transactions for Lloyds Banking Group.

I am engrossed in the practical application of legal principals to empirical issues in the corporate legal realm. This has manifested in an interest in employment law. Byrne Wallace's outstanding reputation as a market leader in this field, as evidenced by the firm's Tier 1 ranking in the Legal 500, attracted me to the firm. I have experience dealing with employment litigation during my time at An Post, most notably assisting with a High Court case this summer. I am particularly interested in employment rights, especially for women. I am a member of Baker Women's Group, an organisation at Baker and McKenzie established in order to address the issue of gender diversity in the legal profession. I studied employment law at UCD, and focused my essay for this module on the topic of positive discrimination policies for female employees.

I was closely affiliated with the Literary and Historical Society during my time at UCD. I was one of the society's top speakers, haven been chosen to represent the L&H at the European University Debating Championships, where I ranked in the top 30 teams. I have represented the society in numerous finals, most notably, the prestigious National Irish Mace Final. Debating competitively at such a high level has nurtured exceptional advocacy and critical analytical skills which I intend to transfer to the legal profession.

I am a driven, ambitious and talented candidate with a strong work ethic, rendering me a perfect fit for the firm. Throughout my time at university I excelled in my extra curricular endeavours, achieve academically whilst managing a part time job and serving on numerous committees.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Harford