20-08 The Obel,
62 Donegal Quay,
Belfast

19th October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am applying for the role of trainee solicitor Byrne Wallace. I am a legal professional at Baker McKenzie and graduate of Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

I chose a career in corporate law as it is rewarding, challenging and varied. The positive impact a lawyer may have by providing a service that is integral to business, offering legal advice that safeguards business decisions, along with protecting companies from litigation is highly rewarding. There is opportunity make a positive and meaningful impact on the business world and to help the broader community through pro-bono initiatives. At Baker McKenzie I have been involved with legal research pro-bono projects connected with asylum and NGO law. I endeavour to engage with pro-bono work at Byrne Wallace, particularly the Solas Project.

Corporate law particularly appeals to me due to the global nature of business. Cross boarder work interests me as the work is complex, presenting the unique task of bridging different legal systems and business cultures. Meeting the challenge of navigating multiple legal systems, languages, business cultures and time zones to execute a high profile deal offers a great sense of achievement. A career at Byrne Wallace affords the chance to engage with international work given the firm’s representation of high profile domestic and international clients. Byrne Wallace’s formidable US presence, with an office in New York enables the firm to execute high profile, interesting, cross boarder deals such as advising Marcegaglia Ireland on its merger with Marfin. Working with and learning from people of different cultures is enjoyable and presents fresh perspectives that I may incorporate into my working life.

The interplay between theoretical concepts of law that have practical consequences which determine how businesses are permitted to operate and arrange their affairs is intriguing. I want to use my legal knowledge to steer companies towards decisions that have a positive impact on their business and deliver impressive results. Constant refinement of the law to meet continuous change in market operations presents the opportunity for a career of lifelong learning. Byrne Wallace’s outstanding industry knowledge and pioneering legal proficiency, evidenced by Byrne Wallace advising on the Deal of the Year for client Griffin Group, enables the firm to offer advice to clients at a level superlative to other firms. Working with lawyers of this calibre will ensure that the training I receive is second to none and will guarantee that I become the best lawyer I am capable of being.

I am passionate about gender equality. I am a member of the Baker Women’s Group, a support network at Baker McKenzie aiming to advance the progression of female lawyers. Initiatives such as supporting the launch of the Women in Construction Network attracted me to the firm, as it indicates a commitment towards the advancement of female lawyers. At university, my employment law essay centred on the topic of positive discrimination policies for female employees. This study sparked a keen interest in employment law, and I am inspired to train in the firm’s top tier Legal 500 ranked Employment Law department, engaging with a large volume of public and private sector work.

At university I reached the final of multiple international debating tournaments. I developed critical communication, analytical and advocacy skills which I endeavour to apply to the legal profession. I am passionate about a career in corporate law and I am proactive in advancing my career through involvement with initiatives such as the Baker Academy management leadership programme at my current firm.

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

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Harford