The Lodge,

 Corcamore,

 Clarina,

 Co. Limerick

Trainee Solicitor Programme, 23/10/2015

Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2.

**Re: Application for ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for a position on the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme beginning in 2016.

My reasons for applying for a traineeship with your firm are several. Firstly, ByrneWallace enjoys an unparalleled reputation for excellence with the legal profession. Despite this well-established reputation, the firm consistently works to achieve higher standards of excellence and continues to set the bar for its competitors. As somebody who constantly strives to improve and challenge myself, I have no doubt that ByrneWallace is the optimum environment in which to take the next step in my legal career.

However, any organization is only strong as the people of which it is comprised. The second reason that I wish to train in ByrneWallace is the unique ‘people-centred’ ethos at the heart of the firm. Aside from providing bespoke legal services to a range of clients, I am drawn to the firm’s deep commitment to cultivating and nurturing the talents of its trainees. The firm holds a reputation for taking a genuine interest in its employees as individuals and embodying a supportive learning culture focused on producing a team of well-rounded, competent and accomplished lawyers. In addition to regular in-house training, the fact that trainees are assigned to a partner in each department during rotations, ensures a consistent level of learning and development by providing direct access to practical advice and feedback.

Thirdly, the variety of experience offered by the ByrneWallace’s Trainee Solicitor Programme is second to none, as the firm’s extremely diverse client base provides exposure to a vast array of practice areas within commercial, private and public sectors. The prospect of gaining direct, hands-on experience with the firm’s client cases from the outset is hugely exciting.

Coming from a non-legal background, I believe that I possess many skills that are ideally suited to a legal career. Having studied politics and literature at university I developed an aptitude for critical analysis of language. As is so often the case in legal practice, an appreciation of and attention to fine detail are imperative. However, I soon found that abstract analysis without real-world application was quite a detached enterprise. The appeal of law for me, lies in the fact that while it relies on creative approaches to problem solving, it is simultaneously grounded in practicality, with the success of these solutions dependent upon extensive experience, expertise and intimate industry knowledge. It is this combination of the abstract and the concrete that attracts me to law. The prospect of applying this skill in order to yield tangible results in a constantly evolving commercial environment is one that I find hugely exciting.

A year on from moving home to Ireland from London in order to pursue this new career path, my transition into the world of law is well underway. I have passed five FE-1 exams and I am currently awaiting the results of the remaining three which I sat this October. Throughout this time I have been interning with a law firm in Cork, which has provided me with invaluable experience and foundational skills which I am eager to develop further within ByrneWallace.

 I would relish the chance to work with the ByrneWallace team in order to provide their diverse pool of clients with tailored solutions to their most challenging problems. To begin my career with the firm would afford me the unique opportunity to work with and learn from many of the finest legal practitioners in the country. Should I be afforded this opportunity, I would work diligently and enthusiastically to ensure that I rise to meet these exceptional standards.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Orla McCarthy Lyons