Beth Onslow,

HR Administrator,

ByrneWallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2

Dear Ms Onslow,

I wish to apply for the Trainee Solicitor Programme, as advertised on your website. I am a motivated and ambitious First Class Honours graduate of the BCL (International) degree programme at University College Cork.

My main area of interest since starting my undergraduate degree has been in corporate law, which has driven my choice of modules throughout my studies. I was fortunate to be chosen by UCC to spend the third year of my undergraduate degree attending the University of Montreal, studying their “LLM Business Law in a Global Context” curriculum. The courses offered were very practical and designed to prepare students for life in a corporate law firm, which is where I want to build my career. As well as the general development of my skills and knowledge during my time in Canada, I also took additional classes on a voluntary basis to further develop specific areas which will benefit me during my career, for example, contract drafting and negotiation. My studies in Canada and in UCC have given me a substantial base of legal knowledge and allowed me to develop my strengths in researching and interpreting information, effective oral and written presentations and working collaboratively on projects. I want to harness, and build on, these skills as my career progresses. I see ByrneWallace as the ideal place to build that career. Having developed a keen interest for Intellectual Property law in the University of Montreal, the opportunity to learn from ByrneWallace’s specialist expertise on data protection, IP and brand protection, cybersecurity and data privacy would be invaluable. ByrneWallace is the first large Irish law firm certified with the ISO 270001 information security standard, providing you with a unique understanding of the challenges organisations face in relation to data security and cybercrime.

I am an organised individual who enjoys a busy workload and keeping an effective balance between my education and extra-curricular activities. For example, I was selected to be a member of the committee for the 14th Annual Law Conference in UCC. Sport has always played a major role in my life. I played field hockey from a young age, proudly representing my school and my club, where I was chosen as captain. Sport has taught me many lessons, not least the importance of discipline, commitment, leadership and teamwork. When injury forced me to give up hockey, I discovered a love of distance running. Running is very rewarding physically, but I also enjoy setting myself performance goals and working to achieve them with all the same determination I brought to the hockey pitch.

I spent two years working in the English Market in Cork City, which has improved my communication skills and emphasised the importance of focusing on your customer’s needs. I have seen from my legal work experience that the same principle holds true in terms of a law firm’s clients i.e. doing whatever is required to provide the best possible level of service.

As a legal intern in Eversheds Sutherland’s litigation department, I have gained experience in areas such as client interaction, drafting and legal research, amongst others. A challenging role, it provided for an ideal environment to learn and develop my skills.

I am attracted to ByrneWallace due to the firm’s strong client focus. The firm places a great emphasis on supporting, protecting and promoting its client’s interests. The opportunity to work directly with a broad range of high profile clients on meaningful transactions, and making an impact on their businesses, is something that greatly interests me. Additionally, ByrneWallace’s training is constantly referred to with great respect. The fact that many partners began their careers with ByrneWallace is evidence that the firm takes a genuine interest in developing its trainees. I believe that my experiences, as outlined above and in my CV, make me a suitable candidate for the position on the programme. I am contactable via the e-mail address or telephone number above.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Ahern