**Rebecca Burke**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am thrilled to be applying for the Trainee Solicitor programme at Byrne Wallace. I have recently finished my joint honours degree, BCLF Law and French, in University College Cork and I am graduating with a 2:1 result. I am currently completing my FE-1 examinations which have been postponed to 3rd-13th of November, and I will be undertaking my first three exams in Company Law, Property Law and Law of Equity.

I believe I am suitable for this programme as I am a very outgoing and enthusiastic individual, who can adapt to my surroundings very easily, which will prove very useful in a law firm such as Byrne Wallace, as it involves meeting new people from many different backgrounds daily.

I have strong organisation skills which is vital for any career in law as I must know how to be able to plan and manage my work efficiently. During final year, organisation was paramount and at certain points I had to organise my weeks down to the minute as I was juggling finals, multiple assignments, a part time job in retail, along with hockey commitments. Between this and my time spent in office environments I have certainly learned how to prioritise.

I present strong communication skills and have no problem advocating for my opinion but have also learned to listen to the other side of the argument. During my legal work experience, the communications skills I learned were extensive due to communicating with senior colleagues and developing relationships with co-workers in the short space of time I spent there.

I know it will be a demanding and fast-paced setting in a global law firm but I am ambitious and have a huge drive for success – between work in a barristers’ office, solicitor's office, retail and restaurants, I am very used to different working environments. I take all opportunities to learn, grow and to gain experience and I have demonstrated the ability to perform in a high-pressure, yet rewarding, environment.

I was encouraged to apply for this programme because as Byrne Wallace is a renowned law firm, with an office in Ireland and also in New York, I believe I would thrive in such an excellent and collaborative environment with so many driven and highly-respected people surrounding me daily.

The enthusiasm for inclusivity and diversity at this firm is remarkable. I highly approve of how modern an approach the firm takes to having many different perspectives and values being taken into consideration and making everyone feel welcome. The fact that the firm had an equal number of male and female partners in 2018 is extremely commendable. The culture of equality which is securely implemented throughout their business, is very refreshing to see. Being a ‘human’ firm is difficult at present, particularly in these unprecedented times, but Byrne Wallace value being a balanced organisation, and this was significant for me when deciding whether to apply for this Trainee Solicitor programme.

From my research, I believe this firm can offer me the opportunity of developing my skillset by exposing me to so many different areas of law, something that perhaps a smaller firm could not give me. Working in a full-service commercial law firm, with various high-profile clients, both in the public and private sector, would enhance my commercial awareness and corporate knowledge, and inspire me to go the extra mile to succeed.

A firm with the reputation of Byrne Wallace speaks for itself. My work ethic, experience, and enthusiasm make me an ideal candidate and it would be hugely exciting to be part of such a firm as this.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Burke.