Byrne and Wallace Cover Letter:

I chose to study law because it touches all aspects of business and family life. There are so many areas to be a generalist of or specialise in. Every business, whether it’s a start-up company or a large multinational on an acquisition trail, needs legal advice. The fact that law is so diverse, with so many areas to pursue and explore, means there are always new areas of law cropping up. The law always dominates the headlines, with current examples being the Brexit vote and the recent Apple tax ruling which has created great uncertainty for Ireland's economic future. While it might be an uncertain time to consider undertaking a traineeship, I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years (to date) attending UCD Sutherland School of Law and look forward to pursuing a career in law.

I believe I possess a number of key skills and attributes that are important in undertaking a trainee role. I have worked in a number of part-time and summer jobs in a wide range of sectors, from law to IT and hospitality. As a result I have learned a wide range of skills. From my time as an IT intern at A&L Goodbody, I have gained experience of working in fast paced, client driven environments. My experience of dealing with initial IT queries of any member of staff in the firm, from Associates to Partners, taught me how to work efficiently and to a deadline, which are crucial skills for a lawyer to possess.

My time as a sales assistant at Photogenic Inc in Chicago, Illinois also taught me invaluable skills. I was stationed in Willis Tower skyscraper and I had the responsibility of capturing photos and selling those photos to hundreds of customers daily. There, I had to work as a member of a team assisting customers who had often queued for hours to enter the attraction. We always worked in pairs, as part of a larger team containing 10-12 people per shift. It was our job to work as to ensure the attraction was run as efficiently and as safely as possible.

I am currently employed as a Legal intern in Ding, and I am enjoying being given the responsibility of proofing contracts, during a negotiation process, highlighting any changes that had been made before escalating changes to the legal team; preparing legal documents such as NDA’s for signature as well as supporting the team with legal research. Due to the international nature of Ding’s business, the subjects under research can vary greatly; from researching local laws and regulations regarding the sale of mobile airtime in African countries for example, to whether a country of interest is subject to any international sanctions. I really enjoy working there and feel I am gaining a lot of relevant experience.

I have many interests outside of law also. From a young age I have been interested in film and photography. I have been involved in and a member of numerous film courses and societies, as well as working as a photographer with Photogenic Inc. From taking part in a Digital Film School course during secondary school to being involved in the respective Filmsoc’s of UCD and the University of Auckland, I have continued to pursue my interest in this hobby

I have also always been interested in seeing the world beyond the emerald isle, and this interest has led me around the world. In the summer of 2015, myself and two friends spent three months in Chicago, Illinois on a J1 student-visa programme, and I had the time of my life. I was exposed to a completely different culture, and through my job I met and became friends with people from very different backgrounds. Living in Chicago opened my eyes to a whole new world of social issues and struggles, especially through witnessing first-hand the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign and marches through South Chicago that so often (unfortunately) dominates the news headlines around the world. However it also opened my eyes to the kindness in the hearts of the Chicago people, demonstrated by the help we received from numerous locals in our search for accommodation during my first week there.

My travelling didn’t stop there. As part of my degree I went on an international exchange to the University of Auckland in New Zealand, however this time I went alone. Once again I was exposed to a completely new way of life. Auckland itself reminded me a little of Chicago, however outside of the major cities New Zealand was very different. The natural beauty of the place was nothing like I had ever experienced, and the people were incredibly friendly. I had the opportunity to study law modules that were only available in that part of the world, such as South Pacific Legal Studies, which gave me an invaluable insight into the unique history and legal structure of New Zealand and the surrounding Pacific nations.

Whilst on my semester abroad I also took the opportunity to travel further afield to Tonga, a small third-world country in the middle of the Pacific with a population of just over 100,000 people. People were living in relative poverty compared to Irish living standards, yet they were still so welcoming of us, and were willing to help us in any way they could. The people were so kind, in spite of how little they had. Being there was a truly amazing experience and really broadened by horizons and opened my eyes to how fortunate I am to live in a country like Ireland, with the opportunities we have here.

Lastly I would just like to outline some of the reasons why I have applied to Byrne Wallace.

Byrne Wallace is a highly regarded and recognised law firm, having won Law Firm of the Year 2016 at the Irish Law Awards. In my opinion it is the ideal firm for me to train with. The trainee stories from your website give a great insight into the open door policy that represents the collaborative and team nature of the firm. A team oriented firm would provide me with the best environment in which I can learn and develop. For me to learn and grow both professionally and personally I need to be in a firm that will both challenge and support me when necessary.

I know from the type of clients you represent, the opportunity to be a trainee with Byrne Wallace work provide me with the opportunity to work with and learn from highly-skilled solicitors who are at the top of their profession, which would give me an invaluable insight into what it takes to become a successful lawyer.

Thank you for taking the time to read my application.