165 Holywell,

Upper Kilmacud Road,

Dublin 14

19/10/17

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am eager to apply for a training contract at Byrne Wallace. I am currently in the midst of completing the FE1 examinations. I plan to sit my final two exams in March 2018.

My academic background is in History. My central interests were political, gender and modern European History. While I thoroughly enjoyed the academic side of the subject, I became increasingly interested in using legal documents and case law as primary sources for my essays. I therefore began to consider a career in law. I decided to sit three FE1’s in March 2017 and undertook two internships over the summer to assess whether a career in law was the right path for me.

I have sought to find a career that is both engaging and challenging. Through my legal work experiences, in addition to my studies, I believe working in law will consistently hold my interest and so, I can envisage an enduring career in this profession.

Specifically, I am eager to develop a career in the area of commercial law.

This summer, I undertook an internship in the Litigation Department of Arthur Cox in addition to an internship in Clerkin Lynch. My experiences in both firms confirmed my interest in this field.

I found the work I undertook to be thoroughly engaging. In particular, I found it fascinating that it was necessary to place such a practice area within the context of the current political, economic and societal climate in order to fully comprehend its depth and breadth.

Given that Byrne Wallace is considered to be amongst Ireland’s most exemplary commercial law firms, I would be most interested in completing a traineeship with your firm.

I also appreciate Byrne Wallace’s client focused approach.

I have a considerable understanding and respect for this core value. From 2011 to 2015, I worked as a part-time sales assistant in Stock Design, a small, independent business selling high-end homeware products. As may be noted, I joined Stock Design at the height of the recession. Given the perhaps, non-essential, luxury nature of homeware products and the fact that a large competitor had recently opened in Dublin, it was feared that problematic times lay ahead for the business. However, due to the impeccable standard of customer service provided, loyal relationships had developed between Stock Design and its customers. Such relationships were a major contributing factor to the survival and ongoing success of the business whilst simultaneously, the provision of a professional and friendly service by competent, hardworking staff, benefited the clientele.

I desire to work in a firm that promotes this kind of integrity and respect whilst dealing with clients. Therefore, the fact the Byrne Wallace is the only top ten law firm in Ireland with Lexcel accreditation, is a significant reason why I am interested in joining the firm.

Through my studies and various work experiences, I believe I have developed a number of skills that are commensurate with a career in law. These include communication and research skills, teamwork and leadership skills as well as presentation skills. These are elaborated upon in my CV.

Additionally, I believe that studying for the FE1’s and having completed two legal internships demonstrates that I am committed to a career in law.

I would hope to start a traineeship in 2018. I am, however, aware that intakes are often decided upon years in advance. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight my flexibility with regard to start dates.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Bergin