To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this to try and adequately express my reasons for choosing to apply for a traineeship at Byrne Wallace.

Since starting my masters, I have been lucky enough to obtain a volunteer position with Transparency International Ireland and their sister organisation TLAC (Transparency Legal Advice Centre). As part of my responsibilities within this organisation, I have been handling calls from people who contact the Speak Up Helpline; TI Ireland's helpline support for people who wish to report wrongdoing or corruption. In only the short few weeks I have been at TI Ireland, I have gained, amongst others, first hand experience in an independent law centre, conducting legal research and consulting with solicitors on advice we should give to clients. I have also been completing any tasks assigned to me by the managing solicitor which relates to the work of TI Ireland or TLAC.

Gaining real and relevant experience in an established organisation throughout my masters was really important to me. I have never been an individual who could just focus on college and assignments. I'm always eager to try and ensure that I continue to be well rounded; striking the work and college life balance, something that is crucial in my opinion.

My degree programme, in particular my final year, definitely developed my ability to strike this balance. Throughout my degree I worked in a high pressured call centre environment, thus, developing both professionally and academically. I also completed a self guided thesis on the funding of the Irish social housing sector and this has made me confident in my abilities to conduct quality, independent research. Balancing my degree, job and thesis was quite demanding, however, I thrive on a challenge and always love to be kept busy learning new things.

Despite working in a professional office environment for four years now, I am eager to gain practical experience in the area that I am interested in. I believe that Byrne Wallace could offer me that opportunity. As a self affirmed progressive firm that embraces technology, I really believe that that principles underpinning the firm are a good match for my own interests. Throughout my masters I tried to pursue topical, relevant avenues of study such as Information Technology Law, Information Privacy Law, Public Procurement and Funds Law. These areas really fit in with the important areas of law that Byrne Wallace make a contribution to.

I would love to be afforded the opportunity to further expand on my knowledge of the law and to see how it can be applied in practice in order to real differences. If I was successful in this application, I can assure you that I would deliver an excellent standard of work each and every day. I think that my experience so far, both academically and professionally, will ensure that I can make a valuable contribution to the work of Byrne Wallace. However, if there was anything that needed improvement, or any areas of further training required, I am a keen and quick learner, particularly encouraged by the fact that this position within a firm that I have a genuine interest in.

I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Kind Regards,

Sarah O'Keeffe