Dear Ms McLoughlin,

My name is Sophie Cassidy and I am currently in my final year of Law & Business in Trinity College Dublin. I am writing to you regarding a position of a 2016 Training Contract at ByrneWallace.

This is a position I am incredibly hopeful of securing. I would be an ideal candidate for the role, as I am a consistent academic achiever and have gained comprehensive, relevant experience in the legal field during my undergraduate degree.

Currently I am a caseworker on the Irish Innocence Project, which aims to exonerate those who have been victims of miscarriages of justice. I also recently spent three weeks as an intern in the Ballymun Community Law Centre. This gave me a great insight into the work carried out by independent law centres. During my J1 in New York, I gained experience with Helene Sherman, an attorney who specializes in Family Law. I worked with her on a case involving immigration fraud. In 2014 I carried out three weeks work experience at your firm in the Health Services Department. I really loved my time in this department. My experience has not just been purely legal. As a Law & Business undergraduate, I have studied several business modules throughout my degree, which have provided me with a strong business acumen and commercial awareness.

I have many other interests and hobbies. I am the founder of Wine and Dine Dublin. This is an Instagram food-blog with over 3000 followers. I have interned at *TheTaste.ie*, Ireland’s fastest growing online food and drink magazine. I am a writer for the ‘Food and Drink’ section of the University Times. I have always had a flair for travel and languages. The French language is a passion of mine, and I have strong verbal skills having spent a summer working in a restaurant in Nice. This year, I have taken up beginner Spanish. I have used each summer throughout my degree to spend some time outside Ireland. I spent time volunteering in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in an orphanage for physically and mentally disabled children. This was an extremely challenging few weeks but, to date, one of my biggest personal achievements.

So, why am I pursuing a career in Corporate Law? And why ByrneWallace in particular? I enjoy being faced with challenges on a daily basis. I am competent at handling a significant workload and am comfortable working to deadlines. I am passionate about the Law but I am also enthusiastic and motivated when it comes to learning about the individual client’s particular business and commercial interests. The skills and challenges that I have encountered in my previous work experiences will be very useful in the Corporate Law world.

I am applying to ByrneWallace in particular because I admire the culture of the firm. From spending three weeks in the Health Services Department under Sinead Kearney I really got to know everybody and felt like part of the team. Lidia was my mentor and she was so friendly and approachable. I feel these are people I would like to work with in the future. On top of that I immensely enjoyed the work and found the child care cases extremely interesting. As a result I have studied family law last year and hope to take child law next semester. I admire the structure of the firm and the non-hierarchical nature within. Following my time at Byrne Wallace, I was extremely interested in litigation and child-care law but as part of the ByrneWallace traineeship I would be excited to experience the other departments as part of the rotations.

Finally it is clear to me from my time in ByrneWallace that you invest in and value your trainees. There is ample opportunity for progression within and this is very promising for an incoming trainee.

I sincerely hope you consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sophie Cassidy