Suzanne Connell,

Rockview, Brennanstown Vale,

Carrickmines,

Dublin 18.

14 October 2018.

Beth Onslow,

HR Generalist,

Byrne Wallace,

88 Harcourt Street,

Saint Kevin’s,

Dublin 2.

Dear Ms Onslow,

I am a final year BCL International student at University College Dublin, and I wish to apply for Byrne Wallace’s traineeship programme.

When I visited UCD’s Law Recruitment Fair, I got a chance to talk to one of your trainees, Rebecca Brennan. During our conversation she highlighted the benefits of training with Byrne Wallace, in particular, the emphasis that is placed on trainee learning and development through the regular hosting of lectures and workshops throughout the course of the traineeship. I was impressed by this, as I would like to work in a firm that is passionate about the quality of training they are providing. Byrne Wallace also stood out to me due to the level of expertise it enjoys in Dispute Resolution, which I have noticed is ranked tier two on Legal 500. I have a keen interest in this practice area, and I feel the experience I have gained so far, from studying ADR in depth, to assisting litigation in Frank Ward & Co. Solicitors, could be further developed at Byrne Wallace.

I would like to work in a law firm because I am attracted to the fast-paced and constantly changing environment. I have realised this through my work experience at William Fry. I enjoyed working in pressurised surroundings, as well as the differing dynamics of working alongside other interns and trainees, and more senior figures such as associates and partners. I gained a lot from their expertise and experience. I was also afforded the opportunity to network with Magic Circle and Silver Circle trainees, associates and partners while on the UCD Law Study Visit to London. From this, I gained an insight into the life of a corporate lawyer, and I was impressed by the high level of responsibility often afforded to trainees. The work conducted in law firms is often quite high profile and has far reaching effects. This is something that intrigues me, and I would like to get behind and contribute to some of these deals, transactions and disputes. I’ve enjoyed studying subjects such as Company Law, Property Law, Intellectual Property Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution and many more subjects that form integral practice areas in many law firms.

I have excellent communication skills that were vastly improved during my work experience at William J Brennan & Co. Solicitors. My duties included communicating in a clear and concise manner with clients and other legal personnel over the phone and email, as well as receiving clients in reception and answering any of their queries. I also possess good research skills and enjoy expanding my knowledge and thinking critically about different areas of the law. Recent examples of research I have conducted include a study I did while interning at William Fry on the EU’s Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, tracking its transposition into Irish law in the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Bill 2018. I also wrote a comprehensive comparative research paper on the law and history of reproductive rights in Ireland and in the United States, with a focus on disability, while I was on exchange last year at the University of California, Davis. I have excellent organisational skills and I am capable of assimilating large volumes of information. While on work experience at Frank Ward & Co. Solicitors, I adapted quickly to the task of compiling briefs for use in litigation. I had to go through documents, pick out ones of central importance to the cases, and present them in an organised, professional manner. I also enjoyed working in a team environment in the Asset Management and Investment Funds department of William Fry.

I believe I am a well-rounded candidate and I could be an asset to Byrne Wallace. I am committed to pursuing a career in law, I have the relevant skill set to support this career, and most importantly, I got the impression from talking to representatives of your firm that Byrne Wallace has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which is a quality I would like in a firm.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Connell.

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