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Dear Graduate Recruiter,

I am a final year Law BCL (Major) and French (Minor) student at UCD, and I am writing to express my keen interest in the ByrneWallace LLP Internship Programme. Having networked with the ByrneWallace team and discovering the great talent and personality of the people who work in this firm, I am more eager than ever to immerse myself in this firm’s culture as a summer intern.

I am an exceptionally driven individual and I take pride in my outstanding performance. Despite having a disadvantaged background and being a first-generation university student, I have never let this act as a barrier as I am enthusiastic about pursuing a successful career in law. Due to my excellent Leaving Certificate results I was honoured with academic scholarships which funded my college education. These include Cothrom na Féinne supported by UCD, and the Sutherland Opportunity supported by Mason Hayes & Curran. I chose to complete a French minor with my degree as this enabled me to complete an Erasmus exchange in the University of Rouen in France where the law was taught completely through French. Using strategic foresight and anticipating the FE-1 examinations this year, I was delighted to be selected as a candidate for the highly competitive Law Society Access Programme (FE-1).

Thriving in collaborative environments that value innovation, I volunteered in 2023 at Laois Arch Club's Entertainment department. Catering to individuals with additional needs, I worked energetically with diverse teams, ensuring we met deadlines and objectives. Like ByrneWallace, I take pride in achieving favourable results and staying one step ahead. Additionally, with a genuine passion for leadership roles and a strong sense of responsibility, I actively contribute to the UCD community. As a dedicated participant in the 2023/24 Cara program, I facilitate the smooth integration of incoming exchange students. Additionally, as the director of UCD's Contemporary Choir, I organise weekly music arrangements for events such as "Battle of the Bands" and the UCD "Aid Ukraine Concert." I am an ideal candidate for the ByrneWallace team as I am enthusiastic, engaged in the task at hand and I am determined to deliver results.

What distinguishes me as a candidate is my integrity and my proactive approach to fostering positive change in society. Inspired by my experience as a babysitter for a child who is partially deaf, I decided to complete a UCD course in Irish Sign Language (ISL). After months of dedication, I am delighted to have a B1 fluency in ISL. Completing this module educated me on the need for government intervention to eliminate unnecessary barriers for the Irish Deaf Community. Additionally, I take a proactive approach with volunteering as I volunteer at “The Thrift Shop Portlaoise” which supports hospice care. As a volunteer with “Meals on Wheels”, I deliver hot meals and companionship to the elderly and vulnerable every week. ByrneWallace LLP strongly promotes diversity and inclusion as this firm believes our differences are what make us stronger. As the sole top-ten law firm in Ireland with Lexcel accreditation and being the first large Irish law firm certified with ISO 27001 by Certification Europe, this firm is always one step ahead.

Having undertaken summer internships with bigger law firms (McCann Fitzgerald and RDJ) and smaller general practice firm (Mulhall & Co Solicitors, McHale Muldoon Solicitors, and Rolleston McElwee), I am certain that working in a bigger commercial law firm is what I would love to do. My initial interest in ByrneWallace stems from its distinguished reputation as a firm that conducts business locally, regionally and on a national and an international basis with links to firms across Europe, the USA and Australasia. However, what sets ByrneWallace LLP apart for me is the excellent training programme. At this firm an intern’s voice is not only heard but encouraged with opportunities to collaborate with leading experts in Ireland and exposure to high-calibre work. The firm's emphasis on trainee opportunities for professional development further underscores its commitment to nurturing talent. It is this combination of reputation, training excellence, and a supportive network that distinguishes ByrneWallace LLP from other law firms that I have worked with.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for reading my cv and cover letter. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Donegan