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Manager of the Internship Programme

Byrne Wallace

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*6th February 2019*

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Mary Sheehan and I am a penultimate student of Law with French Law at University College Dublin. I am currently studying in Aix-Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence, France. In my cover letter today, I am writing to you to ask to be considered for the internship at Byrne Wallace this summer 2019.

I was first notified of Byrne Wallace when UCD sent me an email outlining the trainee programme and advising me to apply. After doing research into the firm, I have taken interest in it due to their broad range of practice areas. Many of them drawn me in, but a few truly capture my interest.

Byrne Wallace takes on the tough task of tackling corporate crime. The relevance of this area became apparent to me as I delved into it in my second year of college in UCD. I have always had a passion for criminal law and an aptitude for corporate law, and these factors combined to peak my interest in white collar crime. Having worked in a law firm in the summer of 2018, I understand the pressure faced by firms to comply with all relevant legislation, especially with the introduction of GDPR. I desire to be part of a firm that makes the corporate field a safer place to navigate.

In addition to this focus, Byrne and Wallace practice in the area of EU and competition law. I have purposefully taken many EU law based modules in my time at Aix-Marseille Université. Droit du marché interieur is focused on competition law in the EU, and it is enlightening to see the role that EU law plays from the French perspective. Competition law is an extremely relevant and important sector in today’s society. I would especially love to see the impact that Brexit will play on the EU law regulations in the coming years, especially as I witness the political unrest in France and wonder if they will soon follow in Britain’s footsteps.

In the practice areas that Byrne Wallace work in, one in particular fascinates me. Its focus on Life Sciences in aid of pharmaceutical industries is one I am keen to explore. I have an interest in the medical profession. I took medical genetics as an elective in UCD and am intrigued by the legal parameters of such fields. As someone who has in the last two years had a medical device made by Medtronic inserted, Life Sciences strikes me on a personal level. I have a real and genuine interest in ensuring that the utmost legal advice is provided to the companies that fabricate these devices, as well as other pharmaceutical products. I am eager to explore the realm of advising healthcare professionals and discovering what the responsibilities of hospitals and other healthcare bodies are. It is an area that I feel I would like to pursue as a career. With this personal element, my determination will not be dampened. This area is also essential to buffering the Irish economy, as many well know pharmaceutical and medical device companies have set up here (Medtronic, Alkermes).

In summary, Byrne Wallace is a firm of such standing, with a reputation so admirable, that to take an internship there would broaden my mind in a way that other firms could not. Its reputation as a top firm in the country is not without good cause. I very much desire to complete an internship at your firm and can pledge dedication and unwavering hard work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my cover letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Sheehan