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Crona McLoughlin

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Dear Crona,

It was lovely to meet you at the Byrne Wallace open evening and I appreciate your guidance. By way of introduction I graduated from University College Dublin with a 2.1 in Business and Law in September 2016 and have been Interning in Philip Lee Solicitors for the past year. I completed four FE1’s in March 2017 and awaiting the results of the remaining four. I am writing to you to apply to the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

I am ambitious to develop my legal career and recognise that Byrne Wallace is viewed as one of the premier legal firms in Ireland winning Ireland Client Service Award 2017 and Finalist Law Firm of the Year 2017 by the Chambers Europe Awards. I want to build upon the knowledge and skills I have gained through studying law and view a Traineeship at your firm as an opportunity to develop the practical and commercial expertise that makes an excellent legal adviser. After speaking to Partners, Senior Associates and Trainees; Michael Walsh, Michelle McVeigh and Bianca McLaughlin at the open evening, I am keenly aware of the important role Byrne Wallace plays in promoting their clients’ interests through the provision of expert legal services and, having studied Business and Law at UCD and completing a year in a medium sized law firm, I believe that I would be well-suited to work in a commercial law firm advising Irish and international businesses on legal issues.

My education to date, both at A-Level and undergraduate, has provided me with a broad understanding of key aspects of business, law and politics. I have developed the ability to digest large amounts of information, summarising and distilling it into relevant points, whilst maintaining clarity of expression. I have also developed the ability to work within a team and meet conflicting priorities in school, University and now work life. Time management skills have been essential in allowing me to deliver strong academic results whilst playing Netball three times a week and being involved in the student Law Societies. I know that Byrne Wallace emphasises the importance of team work in order to deliver innovative and practical solutions for clients whilst providing excellent levels of service. I believe that my sporting and other college activities demonstrate my drive and commitment to be a successful team player.

Completing Internships in highly regarded business and legal firms; Grant Thornton Belfast, BLM Solicitors Belfast, Cleaver Fulton Rankin Solicitors Belfast and Philip Lee Dublin, I was exposed to the reality of a career as a Solicitor in a corporate firm. The work experience I have undertaken has reaffirmed my interest and motivation in applying for a Traineeship at Byrne Wallace. With a strong affiliation with ALFA International and links with international firms, a Traineeship with Byrne Wallace would expose me to multi-jurisdictional transactions and a global legal network. Over the past year in Philip Lee I have worked in the Procurement and Construction department where I was involved in client meetings, drafting contracts for large construction companies, carrying out detailed research for clients and colleagues and updating the know-how on new cases and current issues. Currently I am in the Media Department. I am involved in drafting writer’s agreements, cast agreements and finance agreements for feature films, major television dramas and animation series. This opportunity demonstrates my ability to work in an innovative and fast paced environment, whilst completing and studying for FE1’s.

I have researched the firm and appreciate the importance of support and protection to promote client’s interests. In summer 2014 I worked for three months in a well-established restaurant complex in Long Island, America. The experience taught me that good communication and ability to work under pressure in a team are essential skills when delivering high customer service standards. I would love to have the opportunity to learn and to work as part of the Byrne Wallace team in meeting and exceeding the needs of the firm's clients.

In UCD I was a member of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the LAW "B&L" Day Committee. I also took part in the Calcutta run with Philip Lee. As chairperson of my school’s Special Olympics Committee I was closely involved in fund raising activities and in particular in our participation in the Belfast City Marathon. I also volunteered with “Mencap Summer Scheme”, the children were of mixed ability and I had to constantly ensure that my communication, interaction, patience and understanding catered for their differing and challenging needs. As well as developing my leadership and communication skills, I have found these activities to be very rewarding on a personal level. I have been impressed by the scope of Byrne Wallace’s corporate social responsibility programme and, if successful in my application for a Traineeship, I would hope to be able to participate fully in the firm’s work with St John of God and Special Olympics Ireland.

I am hard working, and have demonstrated the academic ability, alongside the personal and practical skills required to succeed in my chosen career path as a solicitor. I am excited about the opportunity to apply for a Traineeship at Byrne Wallace, and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Anne Guerin.