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|  |  |  | Caití Connolly |
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|  |  |  | BT27 6YF |
|  |  |  | Northern Ireland |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 19th October 2017 |

Dear Sirs,

My name is Caití Connolly and I am a final-year law student at Trinity College Dublin. Having studied abroad for a year at Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, I am on track to receive a first class honours degree upon graduation and would be delighted to secure a place in Byrne Wallace’s Trainee Programme.

I have decided to pursue a career in a commercial law firm as it offers the opportunity to develop my business acumen alongside my passion for law. Having received the CALI Excellence for the Future Award for achieving first place in Accounting for Lawyers and explored the business world through an internship with a global accounting firm, I have demonstrated a flair for business; I enjoy working on large-scale business transactions and thrive in the fast-paced atmosphere of the corporate world. However, I retain a passion for law, particularly Intellectual Property Law and Information Privacy Law, having specialised in these areas whilst abroad. I enjoyed learning about the impact of technology and innovation on global markets, and the differing legislative approaches in the European Union and United States. Indeed, I have undertaken a dissertation discussing the achievability of the General Data Protection Regulation’s ‘right to be forgotten’ in the digital age within these jurisdictions.

The ability to combine my business and legal interests through a career in commercial law was confirmed by my participation in Maurer Law School’s Intellectual Property Association, through which I engaged in a mentor programme, receiving advice from IP practitioners. These practitioners detailed the practical application of IP theory to large-scale business transactions, such as licensing agreements and partnerships. They emphasised the opportunity to collaborate with different departments and work as a member of a team to develop solutions to interesting challenges. For these reasons, I believe a traineeship with Byrne Wallace offers the ideal context to develop professionally.

I have decided to apply for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace as I believe I would fit in with the firm’s values. My participation in the Inmate Legal Assistance Project has taught me the importance of building good client relationships and I would be keen to learn from the client-centric values of your firm, evident from your receipt of the Excellence in Client Service Award and Ireland Client Service Firm of the Year 2017. Furthermore, it is important to me that I join a firm which contributes to and makes a positive impact in the community, having volunteered abroad in Vietnam and the US, and participated in the local community mentoring special needs primary school children through the Voluntary Tuition Programme. Therefore, I am impressed by Byrne Wallace’s commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility through initiatives such as the Solas Project and would be eager to get involved in this work. Finally, the emphasis placed on trainee learning and feedback is attractive. This, alongside your high retention rates, assures me that through a traineeship with Byrne Wallace I will not just be joining a firm but a community.

I believe I would be an asset to your firm. I enjoy working in a challenging, fast-paced environment, and my experience studying at Maurer School of Law amongst international post-graduate students is indicative of my ability to keep calm under pressure and adapt to a given situation. Although demanding to study amongst mature and driven individuals during my year abroad, I rose to the task, being awarded three CALI Excellence for the Future Awards for obtaining first place in each of Accounting for Lawyers, Information Privacy Law and Internet Law. Moreover, with experience in both the financial and legal sectors, I have developed an understanding of how the law and business interact. This commercial awareness has given me a holistic perspective on technical issues. Finally, I collaborate well with others to find logical solutions, evident from my work with the Inmate Legal Assistance Project, AIESEC and further afield volunteering in Vietnam with iChangeSummer Camp.

I am confident that I have the necessary skills and attitude to excel as a trainee with Byrne Wallace and would be delighted to be afforded the opportunity to join your firm.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

*Caití Connolly*

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