Christina Connaughton

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Christina Connaughton, I am a recent Law graduate of Trinity College Dublin and I am applying for a position in the ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

I am applying for the Trainee Solicitor Programme for a number of reasons. The work experience I have gained to date (outlined below) has given me a fantastic insight into a career as a corporate lawyer, and also the opportunity of developing my communication skills. I have also gained a better appreciation of the importance of attention to detail. I am an ambitious and driven graduate, and thus I feel I would be well-suited to a career in a commercial law firm such as ByrneWallace. I have a strong sense of commercial awareness and my goal is to combine this awareness with the legal skills I have developed as part of my undergraduate law degree in order to pursue a career in corporate law. Both my academic record and my extra-curricular activities illustrate that I am hard-working, passionate and diligent. I thoroughly enjoy working in a fast-paced and target-driven environment and as such I think I have the potential to thrive in ByrneWallace.

If selected for a position on the Programme, the open-door policy in ByrneWallace would enable me to work closely with different people at different stages of their career, allowing me develop all the skills that I need in order to further my career. As a hopeful corporate solicitor, I am of the view that the training that I will receive will have a huge impact on my career path. Furthermore, the opportunity for trainees to complete a seat across the core practice areas in ByrneWallace influenced my decision to apply to the firm, as I am keen to explore the different practice areas available to me as a potential trainee solicitor.

I am currently interning in the legal department of Yahoo! EMEA Ltd. In this role I am the primary point of contact for the EMEA Legal and Business Teams for the signature process for deals, ensuring internal process compliance and working closely with Directors to complete execution, tracking and filing of documents. Furthermore I support the legal team on issues including NDAs, termination letters, audits on contracts, support on legal processes, translations and legal research. This role has given me a fantastic insight into the world of corporate law, whilst allowing me to put the legal skills I learned during my degree into practice.

Furthermore, I participated in the Clinical Legal Education module offered by Trinity in September 2016 before we returned to classes. I was placed with the Legal Aid Board for a three week internship as part of this module. In this family law-based setting, I prepared briefs for counsel, I participated in client briefing sessions and consultations, I communicated with clients, opposing legal teams and counsel and undertook some general legal administrative work. While it was both an enjoyable and educational experience, I think that I would be more suited to a corporate law environment.

In addition to the work experience I gained whilst interning at the Legal Aid Board, and the experience which I am gaining in Yahoo, I also do occasional legal research for a barrister, as outlined in my CV attached to this application. This work entails dealing with very specific questions and tight deadlines.

My extracurricular interests show that I am a focused and goal-orientated person who thrives in a teamwork setting. My main interest is sport, with a particular interest in hockey. I also enjoy skiing and horse-riding.

I was a member of Trinity Ladies Hockey Club during my four years in college, and served on the committee for three years. I was captain of the 3rd team during the 2014/2015 season. I now play hockey for Pembroke Wanderers Hockey Club. I was also the Secretary of the Dublin University Central Athletics Club Executive Committee, the governing body for the 49 sports clubs in Trinity, for two years (2015-2017). I believe that my experience on both of these committees has allowed me to develop my communication, teamwork and time-management skills. While I excell in a teamwork situation, I am also happy working individually.

I also have a keen interest in travel, having spent two months backpacking in Southeast Asia in 2016. I speak both French and Spanish to a proficient level. In addition, I enjoy reading and going to the cinema.

I would welcome the opportunity to be considered for a position on the Trainee Solicitor Programme in ByrneWallace, and I thank you in advance for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Connaughton