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Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I am applying for the 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 corporate law firm such as Byrne Wallace. 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 Byrne Wallace.

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 recently completed a summer internship with Eversheds Sutherland. In my role on the employment law team, I conducted research into a number of areas; communicated with counsel, and took attendance at client meetings. Further, I was selected to spend three weeks on secondment to a client. I was given a significant amount of responsibility in this role as I was often the only representative from the firm on site with the client. I also learnt about how the firm interacts with their clients, and what the client expects from the firm. I am due to return to the firm in October 2018 to intern in the property/real estate department.

Prior to my role in Eversheds Sutherland, I worked on the legal team in Yahoo! EMEA Ltd. My duties in this role are outlined in my CV. This role enabled me to enhance the skills important for a career in law (such as communication and teamwork skills), as well as giving me a fantastic insight into the corporate world. While working in-house in a legal team differs from working in a law firm, there are also many similarities between the two. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the legal team in Yahoo, which leads me to believe that I will thrive in a career in corporate law.

At the beginning of my final year at university, I participated in the Clinical Legal Education module offered by Trinity. 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, particularly after taking commercial-focused modules and having gained experience in other more corporate-focused areas of law, such as my two aforementioned work experiences.

My extracurricular interests (as outlined on my CV) show that I am a focused and goal-oriented person who thrives in a teamwork setting; attributes which I believe are both important for a career in corporate law.

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 consecutive years (2015-2017). I believe that my experiences on both of these committees allowed me to further develop and understand the importance of communication, teamwork and time-management skills. While I thrive in a teamwork setting, I also work well independently using my own initiative - I have developed this skill during my work experience in a law firm, where I often had to deal with specific questions and tight deadlines.

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

Yours faithfully,

Christina Connaughton