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Dear Sir/Madame,

I have applied to the Byrne Wallace 2018 Summer Law Internship because I am not only intent on experiencing first hand the work carried out by this firm, but further, because I recognize the tremendous opportunity that awaits should I be accepted for this summer internship.

I am currently enrolled in two undergraduate degrees simultaneously; Trinity College Dublin, for a Bachelor’s Degree in English Studies; and Dublin Business School during the evenings, for a Bachelor of Law (LLB)(Hons). I am in my final year of law, with a current 1.1 grade, and I am in my penultimate year in English, with a current 2.1 grade.

In Trinity, I have worked extensively with the charity Student to Student, acting as a Head Mentor to over 400 first year students who have recently entered into their studies. This experience has not only given me an insight into the dedication and profound effects that volunteer-run organizations can have on those under its prevue, but further, it has instilled in me a greater desire to commit myself to supporting the community around me.

Although I have never had the opportunity to work directly with FLAC, I have been greatly influenced by their work in the past. One issue which has been very important to my legal education is the importance of class actions in Ireland. I was recently published in the American Arbitration Association Dispute Resolution Journal, for a piece which urged for Ireland to adopt a more consistent model to allow for class actions. This essay was directly influenced by the work FLAC did to promote class actions, as they noted in response to The Law Reform Commission Consultation Paper on Multi Party Litigation (Class Actions).

Equally, through being law class representative for the DBS law class, and former chairperson of the DBS law society, interactions with students and faculty has given me a first-hand experience of the respect, and advantages, of working in a team-orientated environment. Leadership, teamwork, communication and initiative are all skills which I have gleamed from my work in these roles.

The ability to lead is an integral part of any working relationship, and as such, it is the cornerstone of my approach to challenging endeavors. College studies have opened up my opportunity to experience leadership roles first-hand in an intimate setting. In DBS, I was inspired by many of the societies available in the college, and was somewhat disheartened to learn that one of my passions, law, was not currently represented in the societies available. I was encouraged by one of my lecturers to face this adversity head on, and rather than lamenting the fact that a society did not exist, I took the opportunity to lead, and re-established the society myself. This was an enlightening opportunity, as it not only gave me a chance to experience leadership, but it forced me to confront the fact that leadership alone is not enough to succeed. In becoming chairperson of the society, I appreciated that the committee members, as well as my vice-chairperson, were instrumental to the success of the society overall. This deepened understanding of leadership is something which I carried over into many other roles which I found myself obtaining during my college life.

Being society chairperson gave me a further sense of confidence in myself, and was instrumental in becoming better acquainted with the other members of my law degree. As such, when the opportunity arose in both 2nd and 3rd year, I was ready and willing to take on the role as class representative for the law class, as I saw it as an opportunity to further develop my leadership skills, and to implement the skills which I had gleamed from working with the society.

This confidence and understanding of leadership equally permeated into my experience in Trinity College. In 2nd year I registered with S2S, a charitable society which paired older students with 1st year pupils, to introduced them to college life, for support, and for campus tours. At the end of second year, I was highly commended for the work I had done in my role as Mentor, and I was asked by the society to return in 3rd year in a leadership role, as a Head Mentor, supervising both the other mentors, as well as the various 1st year students.

Further, in discussions with one of the oldest publications within Trinity College, 'MISC' I was invited to interview for a copy editor position, but it was my appreciation and experience with leadership skills that made me certain I was the right candidate for chief copy editor, and this certainty was reciprocated.

I believe that the skills I have honed over the previous several years make me well suited to the working environment of Byrne Wallace.

I await hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Courtney.