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19/10/2017

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To whom it may concern:

I would like the opportunity to train as a corporate solicitor at Byrne Wallace. I am now in my final year of law at University College Cork and my area of interest has firmly settled on competition law within the European Union. I have a strategic mind and I enjoy thinking about how companies engage with one another and the law. I am also interested in the broader field of economics, increasing my interest in company and commercial law.

My academic record shows a consistently high level of achievement; I have averaged a 2:1 over the last two years. It is clear from my cv that I am not only interested in studying law, but in its practice. Building on my secondary level interest in public speaking, I have competed in moot courts throughout my college career, relishing the team work and the competitive nature of the debates. The challenge of presenting arguments to solicitors, barristers and judges has been particularly exciting. Wining the A&L Goodbody UCC Law Society Moot Court Competition in 2016 has been the highlight of my academic career to date.

My experience of collaboration in the moot court competitions has been enhanced by my involvement in the UCC Law Society and in the Fianna Fáil Society. I have enjoyed the responsibility which has come with key committee roles, and in particular embraced the challenge of being chairman of the Fianna Fáil Society. This leadership role required that I use my interpersonal skills to team build within the society, and to effect reforms which were required for the society’s long term benefit. College societies can be fractious environments, but I like working with people to achieve a common goal, and was able to do that within the society by investing time in relationship building. While I am a self-motivated individual, being chairman asked me to draw on my collaborative skills to achieve a common beneficial goal.

In addition to the chairmanship of the Fianna Fáil society, my role as finance officer for the Law Society is one which indicates my peers trust in me and my integrity. I am proud to accept this responsibility in a society with a long tradition in the university. My ambition is to leave the society in an improved financial state, and we’re on track for that result.

My part-time employment has allowed me to work with a range of people, from diverse backgrounds. I have enjoyed this aspect of my work in supermarkets and delis, a lot can be achieved when everyone makes an effort – sometimes that means working hard so that everyone finishes their shift on time, sometimes means working late when there has been a challenge instore. I have learned through this work experience that I am the sort of colleague who will help to solve a problem with time or ideas.

In addition to being ambitious for myself, I believe that I have a role to play in improving the wider community. It was this which motivated me to run for the post of deputy president of the UCC Students’ Union in March 2017. I believed that there were a number of areas in which my energy and strategic planning could improve key areas of student welfare, in particular I campaigned on the issue of student housing. I was willing to invest in myself, and funded my own campaign from my part-time job. Understanding that this would only succeed as a team enterprise, I built a great group of twenty people who helped me to strategize, canvass and run the campaign. While I didn’t win, I came a very respectable second, and the experience taught me a lot about working collectively on a campaign, the effort involved in trying to win over voters, and how to be gracious in defeat.

As someone who regularly sets themselves challenges, and expects high standards in terms of results, Byrne Wallace’s reputation for excellence in legal advice in an international setting is highly attractive to me. I am not only interested in commercial law, but also in expanding my world horizons. The opportunity to engage on a European wide level is particularly exciting. I think it will be clear from my profile that I would be an asset to your company.

I would value the opportunity to talk to you in person, and would be happy to come for an interview.

Yours sincerely,

Daire O’ Herlihy