Knockmullen,

New Ross,

Co. Wexford.

20th October 2017.

88 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2,

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Ireland.

To whom it may concern,

I am a final year BBL student in UCD. As a Business and Law student, corporate law is the perfect link between my two degree subjects. Throughout my degree I have thoroughly enjoyed the attention to detail and judgement aspect of the law coupled with the dynamic and fast paced business environment and this is what I believe a career in corporate law will continue to provide for me.

Working with people and building strong relationships has always been a strength of mine. People often describe me as approachable and friendly and this means that building relationships comes, to a certain extent, naturally to me. I was an intern in the People and Organisation Tax team in PwC this summer. The work I was involved with was, as the title suggests, focused on people. This aspect is what really appealed to me and this is something that I know will continue to be a focus in a law career both with the team and the clients I work with. Along with the people side, the legal side also really appealed to me. It gave me a chance to see how the law interacts with people and businesses on a domestic and international basis. I learned invaluable skills such as research and networking skills which I will undoubtedly carry with me in my legal career. I enjoy working as part of a team but at the same time I welcome the opportunity to use my initiative and accept responsibility. This is best illustrated by my volunteering experience to Tanzania in summer 2016. I travelled to Tanzania with UCD Volunteers Overseas. It was a year long programme and much planning, preparation and training was required prior to travelling to our host community. We taught computers, English and ran summer camps. This role required us to engage with teachers and students of all abilities and ensure that they all reached the same level by the end of the project. This required us to use different techniques to make certain that there was a full understanding by all pupils. We would often have power cuts during our computer classes which would last for long periods of time. In order not to waste time we would have to think of creative ways to teach the computer classes without the actual computers. This meant that I would have to use my initiative to teach the classes in a way that the pupils could relate to and would remember once the power was restored. The teamwork skills I learned on this project are indispensable. I really learned the value of teamwork and this is something I look forward to further developing in a professional capacity. Byrne Wallace’s commitment to and emphasis on corporate social responsibility is something that I admire and something that is of equal importance to me. Given my role as a volunteer teacher, I can relate to the Solas programme and I find it to be particularly interesting and admirable.

I have always been a studious person and the opportunity to further my studies in both the academic and practical aspect of law is most appealing. I am an ambitious person and I constantly strive to achieve my best and to reach my full potential. Throughout my degree I have successfully maintained a second class honours degree and I believe that this highlights my dedication to my studies. From January to May 2017 I studied in Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona as part of the Erasmus programme. This afforded me the opportunity to study my degree subjects from a different perspective. I thoroughly enjoyed studying subjects that are not on offer in UCD and this gives my degree a more diverse dimension. Another skill that I have acquired as a result of my degree subjects is my commercial awareness. Commercial awareness is a huge part of a career in corporate law and my background in both business and law has equipped me with the necessary skills to be commercially aware.

When I came to UCD I decided to challenge myself and to try something new. I signed up for the James Joyce Maidens Competition. This is a debating competition run by the Law Society and the L&H society. This was a great way for me to overcome any fears of public speaking while trying something new. This experience has benefited my communication skills greatly.

I joined the Student Legal Service because as a law student it is a great way to get and insight into the legal world. The SLS hold clinics weekly where they provide information to students who have legal problems.  I participated in the clinics in first year. Personally I found them to be very rewarding, as I was able to help people who had legal issues. The SLS hold the Student Legal Convention and I was part of the SLC committee in second year. At the Convention I heard speakers discussing careers in law and I found this to be very interesting. This motivated me to research the trainee programmes that are available and lead me to conclude that the programme with Byrne Wallace is the best. I was sponsorship manager for UCD's community musical production of Legally Blonde. I wrote to and contacted several businesses in order to gain sponsorship for the production. I was also required to contact other musical societies all over Ireland to invite them to the production and arrange tickets. My organisation skills were heightened by this role along with my networking skills. Networking skills are of utmost importance for building and expanding relationships.

My communication skills were enhanced through my job as a tour guide and also as a volunteer teacher. I gained the understanding of how to communicate a message in different ways to ensure a full understanding by all. As a tour guide I would interact with a wide range of people from all different nationalities and backgrounds on a daily basis. This relates to the diverse environment which exists within the Byrne Wallace organisation and also within the legal world. My clarity of expression and my self-belief were greatly improved by my role as a tour guide and will be indispensable to me as a lawyer. The explanation skills I acquired as a result of this job will also be of huge benefit to me in my legal career.

I am an organised person and this skill helps in assuring that I keep calm under pressure and am not thrown by the unexpected. My time management skills also play a role in this regard. I developed and enhanced these skills through my role as Meitheal Leader in sixth year of secondary school. Meitheal leaders are students who are regarded as sensible, kind and caring to look after the first year students and to help them settle in. Prior to the commencement of term all Meitheal leaders had a training camp over 2 days where we learned different techniques to help the students to get to know each other and also methods of dealing with problems should they arise. After our initial meeting with the class we then met with them once a week for a 40 minute period. We had to use our initiative to plan and organise our 40 minute meetings and as Meitheal leaders we met regularly to plan what we would do. This is one of my most significant achievements because we immediately saw the benefit of our careful planning and organising, as the class became close knit after just a couple of weeks.

Having attended the LawStart day in A&L Goodbody I was reassured that this career is the right choice for me. While I thoroughly enjoyed A&L Goodbody, having researched it some more, Byrne Wallace has really stood out for me. My main criteria when selecting firms to apply to was a firm who shares the same values as I do, who values its people, clients and also the community in which it is located and where I would receive the best training with the most interesting work. Byrne Wallace meets and surpasses these criteria. Byrne Wallace truly values the development of their trainees and this is obvious through their open-door policy, partner supervision programme and also their focus on personal development. The training, support and guidance that trainees in Byrne Wallace are given would help me to reach my full potential and provide the best start to my legal career.

I am happy to address any questions and I am available for interview at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Eimear Flynn