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Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to apply for a position in the Byrne Wallace summer internship programme commencing in 2018. The opportunities for professional training and growth offered in the structured manner of your firm would be invaluable in taking my career to the next step and I feel my experiences in international academics, previous employment roles and voluntary and extracurricular work would make me a strong addition to the intern intake.

I graduated from University College Dublin in 2017 with a second class honours, grade one degree (BCL), ‘Law with Social Justice’ and am currently studying for a Master’s degree (LLM) in ‘Human Rights and Criminal Justice’ in Queens University Belfast. As can be seen from examining my CV, I have a long history of group work and learning in both my voluntary and employed capacities. My work in the ‘Meitheal’ programme trained me to maintain positive dispositions with teammates, regardless of the situation, in order to ensure results. This has been added to by years of work in customer service, as well as my work within a solicitor’s office, to make me an able communicator. I am a hardworking and determined person and I feel this is demonstrated by achieving bronze, silver and gold Gaisce awards, presented to me by President Michael D Higgins. The skills gained from my pursuits in public speaking and moot court competitions have provided me with more than simply polished and measured presentation skills; they have helped me develop a refined approach to interpersonal situations. In my experience, active listening, as well as awareness of non-verbal cues, are extremely important skills in teamwork. As a member of the internship I would bring a level-headed aptitude for both individual and group work including problem solving in interpersonal settings with both clients and colleagues.

My professional interests in law are broad, including company law, which has developed from experience and study. My initial study of company law piqued my interest in directors’ duties and corporate governance. This was added to by my personal work with the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul and by my experiences working in retail where I recognised that small and medium-sized enterprises (SME’s) and charities can sometimes struggle with their legal obligations and structures.

My interests in the law were further broadened when I was selected to study abroad, for my third year, in the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Being taken out of my comfort zone and challenged by a considerably more research-based institution had a positive impact on my education and was instrumental in my decision to pursue a Master’s degree in Law. Having an internationally focused mind, I was drawn to research on private international law during my time spent in Antwerp The field continues to interest me, particularly in the wake of Brexit and the period of change in which the USA finds itself. An understanding of the nature of the regulated market of the EU is likely to continue to be integral to international business, particularly if Ireland becomes the only Member State with English as a first language. I would hope to build upon my knowledge of this area, making myself useful to the firm in continuing to establish itself at the forefront of Irish and international commercial law.

I believe you would find me to be career focused, professional and affable. While I recognise that at this stage in my career I have limited experience and will most likely gain more from an internship than I can return, I would commit to undertake any and all responsibilities to the best of my ability and to engage with all opportunities to improve my knowledge base, as well as my practical skills, in order that I might prove a useful addition to the firm in the future.

Yours Faithfully,

Emer Bennett