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Crona McLoughlin 7 February 2017

HR Manager

Byrne Wallace

88 Harcourt St, Saint Kevin's, Dublin 2

Dear Ms McLoughlin,

 I am writing to apply for the summer of 2017 Byrne Wallace summer internship programme. This cover letter will explain why I wish to intern at Byrne Wallace and why I have the necessary skills to succeed at the firm.

 To begin I will account for the fact I am a History and English student and yet have chosen to apply for a law internship. Studying for my current degree has brought me a plethora of skills but those skills are better deployed in a law career, and especially one with Byrne Wallace, than anything related to History or English. I want the kind of opportunity for career advancement and the kind of challenging environment that Byrne Wallace offers.

 I am applying to Byrne Wallace for three reasons: its culture, its quality of training, and its success in legal areas of interest to me. In terms of culture I am attracted to the fact that the firm is progressive and proud of its opportunities for career advancement. Its partner-led approach and emphasis on collaboration have undoubtedly been important to the firm’s success. This is a culture into which I will readily fit. My roles as treasurer of Trinity Fianna Fáil (The Wolfe Tone Cumann) and as my class’ representative to Trinity College Students’ Union (TCDSU) have given me experience in collaborative decision-making on policy issues. This teamwork orientation will stand me well at Byrne Wallace.

 Furthermore, the fact I began my involvement in Trinity Fianna Fáil at a time when my other commitments included being class rep, a Trinity Student 2 Student mentor, and having an important year for my final degree result (I secured an overall first class honours result) is relevant. Working at a firm like Byrne Wallace I will similarly have to balance and prioritise the issues and cases on which I will be working.

 Byrne Wallace’s quality of training is another pull factor. Although I am currently only applying for an internship my ultimate goal is of course to pursue a training contract with the firm. Former trainees praise the quality of on-the-job training as it mixes well with development programmes like regular lunchtime seminars on professional development. Moreover, the firm’s emphasis on approachability and its ethos of learning and development are particular strong points. Its friendly but challenging environment will allow me to learn from those with greater expertise while giving me a chance to solve problems.

 Areas of strength for Byrne Wallace are many and varied but areas of specific interest to me are public sector and mergers & acquisitions law. Although on the face of it these areas are polar opposites they are both areas of strength and interest for me. In terms of the public sector Byrne Wallace has earned its top tier Legal 500 ranking since it has advised clients like the HSE. In M & A the firm was recently ranked a leading adviser after successes in transactions like British Standards Institution’s (BSI) acquisition of Espion Limited. I want to be a part of a firm riding the wave of such successes.

 Certainly the firm’s strong relationship with clients – its quick response time to queries and constant informing them of new developments – must underlie these achievements. My skills in this setting have been honed through work experience in sales and service. Working as a doorman in Manhattan I had to develop relationships with building residents of diverse backgrounds. I had to stay calm under pressure and inform them of developments that would affect them.

 On my own suitability for interning at Byrne Wallace I have signalled my intention to work in corporate law through recently undertaking a number of extra-curricular activities in that line. These include making use of the TCD Gradlink mentoring programme where I chose to be mentored by respected law practitioners, and beginning a volunteering relationship with the Ballymun Community Law Centre. I have also taken the initiative to take part in Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) Pathways to Law, a programme ordinarily restricted to law students of the college. During the programme I have gained insight into the world of corporate law through networking with partners and associates of top firms.

 Finally, my History and English degree has bestowed on me an excellent ability to pay attention to detail and an awareness of the subtleties of language. The strong research skills I have developed as a result of the degree will undoubtedly aid me at Byrne Wallace. My History background will also allow me to more fully understand the context in which public sector law was created and currently operates. Constructing literary and historical arguments has forced me to analyse all relevant facts and to think outside the box. It has taught me how to think rather than what to think.

Please consider inviting me to interview. You shall not be disappointed!

Yours Sincerely,

James McGovern.