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Crona McLoughlin
HR Manager
ByrneWallace
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Dear Crona,

My name is Oliver McCollum and I am a penultimate law student at University College Dublin and wish to apply to the Byrne Wallace summer internship programme 2018. To be given the chance to work at Byrne Wallace, one of the top legal firms in Ireland, winning the Chambers Europe Ireland Client Service award 2017 and Law Firm of the year at the the Irish Law awards 2016, and with some of the finest lawyers in the country would be the opportunity of a lifetime and valuable first step in my career in the law. As a member of a fourth generation of lawyers from great grandparents down, I have grown up surrounded by lively legal debate and it perhaps inevitably has always been my desire to pursue a career in law. Byrne Wallace's initiatives are highly impressive, in particular its CSR approach and community-culture and support of organizations such as Special Olympic Ireland, and having volunteered in the past, I would like to continue to do so in a professional context.

I believe I would be able to make a meaningful contribution to the firm's team as I have demonstrated both strong academic ability and a hard-working ethos and determination throughout my education. As a result of studying three literary subjects at A-Level, I developed the ability to digest large amounts of information, summarising and distilling this into relevant points, whilst maintaining clarity of expression. I learn from mistakes and embrace change. I also relish new challenges and new environments. Indeed, I will be travelling alone on an international exchange program to study law in Australia for 5 months commencing February 2018 and I am very grateful for this opportunity both to see the country and experience the law in a completely different setting.

Being the middle child in a family of five, I have developed both a strong competitive mentality and valuable negotiating skills. I have ample of experience in regards to teamwork having played in various successful sporting teams and through my previous work experience. I have developed appropriate skills suitable for a career in a corporate law firm such as team work, commitment, time management and working well under pressure. I have never wanted to settle for second best and I have taken this attitude with me throughout my entire life and so I believe I have the drive and passion to make it as a valuable member of the team at Byrne Wallace.

Not only do I consider myself a valuable team member, but I also understand the importance of leadership and management skills. Last summer I worked for three months for a well established painting company in Vancouver called College Pro Painters. I was appointed leader of my team and responsible for managing each of our operations and taking care of highly expensive equipment and a van. This entailed a high level of responsibility and

pressure and allowed me to maximize my leadership skills and my ability to work well in a team. Byrne Wallace stresses the importance of team work in order to deliver innovative and practical solutions for clients. As a sociable and approachable person, I am not afraid to put myself out there, evidenced by the fact that I was recently elected as class representative for the UCD Law Student Staff Consultative Forum 2017. I am the voice for all law students across my year in UCD.

I am fully aware and appreciate the importance of promoting and protecting client interests at Byrne Wallace and how keeping a satisfactory client service is a top priority. I have been a lead barman for 4 years at two very busy and respected bars in both Belfast and Dublin. This has taught me how good communication, the ability to well under pressure and the ability to keep the customer happy is essential to the success of a business and keeping healthy client relationships. I would love the opportunity to develop these skills even further by joining the team at Byrne Wallace that is recognised as the only top ten law firm in Ireland with Lexcel accreditation.

After speaking with former interns at Byrne Wallace during the UCD Law Fair, I am very excited at the prospect of working at a firm that has demonstrated significant growth in recent years, evidenced by the fact it is now one of the largest firms in Ireland with an international recognition. The global reach of the firm speaks for itself with links across Europe, the USA and Australasia. I would do my utmost to put in the hard work and long hours necessary to get the best out of my experience. Therefore, I would relish the opportunity to be part of the 2018 summer internship programme at Byrne Wallace.

Yours faithfully, Oliver McCollum