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To The Graduate Recruitment Manager,

I am a final year Law with Politics student at UCD actively seeking a legal traineeship with Byrne Wallace. I want to be a trainee solicitor with Byrne Wallace because I am seeking a post college employment opportunity which will allow me to apply and consolidate my legal knowledge, work on high profile and challenging cases, and flesh out my full potential. I am a hard worker and I am hungry for success. I am intrigued by the challenge associated with the fast-paced environment in commercial law, which is everchanging and developing. I want to be at the core of that, so that in 10 years' time, I will be able to show my family an exciting piece of legal development and tell them that I was involved in the change.

Since joining UCD, I have been involved with UCD Music Society, taking on a range of committee roles; I am now the current elected Auditor/Chairperson. My role includes a great deal of leadership and management responsibilities, including managing an 18-person committee and chairing weekly meetings, EGMs and AGMs. I oversee the overall running of the society to ensure we are engaging with our 800+ members. I am responsible for externally sourcing sponsorship, partnerships and guest speakers and I produce all the budget proposals and grant applications. Society life has been faced with a unique set of challenges due to Covid-19 and I have worked tirelessly with the committee to transition Music Society to an online society, facilitating online events, virtual meetings and developing online content for our social media. Whilst this session is presenting unusual challenges, it has been eminently enjoyable and fulfilling to find innovative solutions for issues which have never arisen before.

My involvement with UCD Dramsoc and UCD Musical Society as a performer, director and producer has allowed me to understand the importance of teamwork. My greatest achievement to date was when I directed an award-winning production of Trainspotting. The show over-sold 3 out of 5 of the nights. The production was nominated to represent UCD at the 2019 Irish Student Drama Awards in Belfast, where the show was nominated in 6 different categories. Retrospectively, regardless of whether the show had been a success or not, the dedication of each cast and crew member, in combination with the trust we all had in one another and the belief we all had in our show, is what makes the experience truly important to me. It was a great example of how strong team work leads directly to success.

I have also worked within the Comedy industry, as an Assistant Producer, which exposed me to a fast-paced, high pressure environment, where I thrived. In August 2019, I was accountable for the success of ten comedians performing twelve shows in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, provide bespoke advice, tailored for each of their needs. This role allowed me to further my inter-personal and communication skills. I had to communicate effectively and professionally with colleagues, clients and venue managers, whilst managing an 8-person street team, efficiently troubleshooting issues and ensuring client satisfaction. Moreover, my role as the Marketing and Technical Manager of The Gin Chronicles gave me the opportunity to I negotiated partnership deals with representatives from both Tanqueray 10 and Fentimans. I managed to strike a fantastic deal with both companies, against the odds, securing us full sponsorship for the show.

On top of my strong academic record, I believe the nature of my part time jobs and involvement in College Societies gives me distinct edge over other candidates, and I have invaluable transferrable skills which I feel are directly applicable to a career in law. I have extremely strong communication skills, which will be instrumental for making a mark with clients. I am confident in my abilities to communicate efficiently and professionally, both in person and virtually, due to the unique circumstances I find myself in as I currently manage and lead 18 committee members through virtual platforms. Furthermore, my experiences as a producer and marketing manager exposed me to working with professional clients, providing a high level of service and satisfaction. I want to combine my skills and experiences, with the exceptional training and opportunities available at Byrne Wallace, in order to flesh out my full potential.

Byrne Wallace has really stood out to me as a progressive firm, who allow their trainee lawyers to learn and grow, in a fast-paced, yet supportive environment. A recent Law Society of Ireland article entitled "Legal overwork

culture will deter talent” outlines the current culture of legal trainees being overlooked and overworked, which naturally would deter young, exciting lawyers, like myself, from applying for traineeships. However, Byrne Wallace has really stood out as a firm which promises a challenging, but well supported traineeship programme, where trainees can truly develop into exceptional lawyers, as part of a collaborative team. This dedication and commitment to the learning and development for trainees has been a key factor for my application.

My drive, work ethic and dedication will promote my success as a commercial law trainee. I believe with the development and training offered in Byrne Wallace, I could flourish into an exciting, innovate and creative young solicitor.

If you wish to contact me, you can reach me on 0830079978 or orlaghmcdonald20@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,
Orlagh McDonald