Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the 2016 Summer Internship Programme at Byrne Wallace. I recently graduated from University College Dublin with a BA (Hons) in History and Politics and am currently pursuing the Masters of Common Law (MCL) at UCD. The MCL is a conversion course for graduates from a non-law background.

I chose to apply to Byrne and Wallace based on the strength and reputation of the firm. As a leading commercial law firm in Ireland I would hope that as an intern I will actively observe and contribute to complex and important projects, cases and deals. I actively researched the firm, having heard of Byrne Wallace through family involved in the field, noting in particular the Lexcel accreditation and the award for Litigation Case of the Year at the Irish Law Awards 2014. My particular area of interest is in commercial litigation and dispute resolution which was peaked through my participation in the UCD Student Legal Service Negotiation competition, in which my team reached the quarter-finals. I believe that my own experience in customer service and complaint resolution, in my capacity as General Manager of an Indian takeaway, is relevant to the firm’s clear emphasis on client care and management. By working within one of the core departments over the four weeks, I would hope to gain a broader understanding of the range of services provided and the clients served by the firm.

The programme would also be an excellent opportunity to learn from the knowledge and skillset of expert lawyers. Through the experience I have gained in college, my part-time job and through personal interests, I have acquired crucial skills relative to commercial law – these include presentation skills, customer service skills, analytical skills and problem solving skills. Within the context of commercial law these skills are necessary in the effective articulation of information and provision of sound advice to a client. Further, I am aware that advice from a corporate law firm should not be delivered in a legal vacuum and therefore, I believe that my previous exposure to working in business would also be invaluable to me. The time I have spent working in a managerial capacity has helped me to establish a strong commercial instinct which is particularly applicable in adapting advice to the wider context of a client's company, industry and economy. The challenging environment of Byrne Wallace will provide the opportunity to further develop these practical legal and business skills.

Alongside college and work, sport has been instrumental in my personal development. I have played hurling with Kilmacud Crokes for a significant number of years, with my team having recently been promoted to AHL4. Participating in the sport has helped me to develop in terms of teamwork and competitive desire. The team has also required a significant level of commitment and dedication through training, matches and fitness sessions. Furthermore, being an active member of a G.A.A. club has provided me with a number of opportunities to participate in a wide variety of sporting, social and charitable events. The emphasis within Byrne Wallace on the team is evident, I believe that through my own experience I can match this excellence as a practical, personable, skilled individual able to meet and exceed the needs of the team, the firm and the clients.

The Summer Internship Programme would be invaluable in my progression as a lawyer, providing me with a unique opportunity to engage with life inside a commercial law. Through my engagement I would deliver a valuable contribution to the firm and hope to establish a meaningful connection to Byrne Wallace that will stand to my future career in commercial law. Thank you for your time in reviewing my application and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul McMorrow