Riona Connaughton

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Head of the Internship Programme

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Riona Connaughton and I am a 3rd year UCD Law with History student applying for a position in the Summer Internship Programme.

From my research of your firm, the ByrneWallace environment appears to be a welcoming one with a strong emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility and on corporate ethics and values and so I believe I am the right fit for your firm. I believe my strongest attribute is my integrity. While I am a very driven and ambitious individual, I am also very honest and I do have a huge interest on how my future work will impact more than just myself. Evidence of this can be seen from my work with the Support Africa Foundation, my work with St Gerard’s School’s projects in Zambia and also from my work with Saint Vincent de Paul and St Catherine’s Special Day-Care. From the work that ByrneWallace does with the likes of St John of God and their sponsorship of the Hope Foundation, it is clear that the overall ethos of your firm is a very positive one, and this is among one of the many reasons why I have taken such a keen interest ByrneWallace. I believe many of my own personal interests regarding charitable work, are already incorporated largely into your firm and thus I believe I would be an excellent fit.

Further, I also believe I would work well in a corporate law environment as I have a very keen interest in Corporate and Employment Law. In UCD, my favourite modules included Company and Employment Law which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also have taken an International Human Rights Law module which partially dealt with legal ethics involving the various practices of transnational corporations. Currently, I am on a semester abroad studying in the King Hall Law School in the University of California Davis, where I am taking the modules Business Negotiations and White Collar Crime, the latter of which deals with the lawyer’s legal and ethical role in advising corporate cliental. I find these areas of law incredibly interesting and extremely enjoyable to study, which I believe would fit very well into the nature of the corporate legal environment offered by your firm.

My academic achievements such as earning the UCD Entrance Scholarship Award for outstanding Leaving Certificate Results, my awards for overall academic achievement in History and Religion in my 6th year prize ceremony, and my current GPA of 3.7 (1st Class Honours), are proof that I am a dedicated and hardworking individual who has the ability to excel in your firm.

Finally, I am a friendly and energetic person and have been a member of numerous sports teams throughout my life. I thus thrive in an environment where there is a strong emphasis on teamwork and where good relations with clients and colleagues are highly promoted and valued. I have also had numerous part-time jobs with the primary goal of providing excellent customer care and so I have a strong understanding of the importance of maintaining a great client/customer relationship at all times. For example, one of my part-time jobs was as a promotional worker with BACKUP Marketing. This required a substantial amount of teamwork with the ultimate goal of ensuring both the client and the target audience were left more than satisfied with their experiences of BACKUP. I worked for over a year with this company and they often expressed their recognition of my ability to do so. As a result, in many cases, I was sent to work directly with the client's representatives, which included personal from the Lavazza coffee brand, the Irish Aviation Authority and Irish Country Magazine. From this experience, I not only further developed my teamwork skills but I was also taught how to think about the potential customer's needs and why our product is something that would be useful to them. This experience is undoubtedly very relevant to ByrneWallace, primarily due to your emphasis on establishing great relationships with both your clients and colleagues. I have always worked very well with all people and will not disappoint in this aspect.

As outlined above, I am an extremely determined, motivated and honest individual who would be delighted at the chance of joining the ByrneWallace Internship team. I hope you will seriously consider my application and I appreciate you taking the time to go through it all.

Yours faithfully,

Riona Connaughton.