**Sarah-Jane McCusker**

Clanart, Cherrywood Road, Loughlinstown, Dublin 18

21/10/2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sarah-Jane McCusker and I am in my Second Year of a Masters in Common Law in University College Dublin. I am writing to in relation to the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme for 2021.

Throughout my education I have always had a keen interest in law. However, I believe it was my involvement and participation in the start-up and running of Vinyl Dun Laoghaire which sparked a particular interest in commercial law. This interest slowly developed and became more embedded during my time as an MCL student largely due to my studies of property law, company law and intellectual property law.

My varying work experience has enhanced my customer service skills, increased my work ethic and allowed me to learn how to interact with a variety of different customers from various professions. I feel this experience directly correlates with building client relationships in a law firm and would largely benefit me to excel in the world of corporate law.

Elements of corporate law which I feel are well-suited to my personality are its fast-paced environment and the need for strong motivation and flexibility in order to succeed as I work well under pressure, I am capable of thinking quickly on my feet and adapting to changing circumstances. Secondly, the research skills and commercial awareness needed are closely linked with traits of mine as I thoroughly enjoy researching case precedence and how previous law can be adopted and applied to today’s setting. Thirdly, I have adapted good negotiation, communication and inter-personal skills through both my work experience and studies in a Masters of Common Law. My ability to communicate clearly and coherently in a professional manner, work within a team structure with a common objective but also having the ability to work off my own initiative would also make me very suitable for a career in commercial law.

Byrne Wallace is a leading law firm which provides its employees with supportive, inclusive, professional experience and encourages them to grow their confidence and intellectual capability. This ethos largely stood out to me when researching law firms in Dublin. I believe that the firm is forward thinking and progressive, with inclusion being a core feature of the workplace. Similarly, they are important values of mine and I believe I attempt to demonstrate these values, and more, in my day-to-day life. I also believe that the emphasis which Byrne Wallace places on a healthy work/life balance is very important.

Since commencing a Masters, I realise I am much more driven and focused in what I want my career to look like. This traineeship in your firm compliments that vision massively. Therefore, please accept this letter and Curriculum Vitae as an introduction to my skills and background. For more information feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank-you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sarah-Jane McCusker