

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gregory Burnand and I have just completed my Law Degree at Victoria University. I write to you today to apply for the graduate lawyer position at Simmonds Stewart.

I am 37 years old, before returning to study I spent a decade advancing in the Telecommunications industry where I reached a high level of experience for my role. This was a unique role as it required both autonomy in achieving daily goals as well as the social ability to work well in a team. I was shaped by deadlines and required to solve difficult problems under pressure. I believe my successful work experience coupled with returning to study as a mature student throughout many difficult life events has shaped me into a level headed yet an enthusiastic prospective employee. My resume has been attached.

I have a background and experience in technology which is why when returning to study, I did not complete a conjoint degree. I decided to undertake a law degree to add to my existing critical thinking and problem solving skills. I have always enjoyed learning and investigating anything new when it comes to technology and with my experience as a fault technician I like to try and tackle every aspect that new technology has to offer. My interest in entrepreneurship comes from watching the US version of Shark Tank for many years and I would love to be able to contribute my time and skills to helping people make their dreams become a reality. I believe this type of work would be interesting, fun, challenging, satisfying and that Simmonds Stewart would be a fantastic firm for me to start my new career.

To speak to my studies, I am proud to say I have never worked harder or been more dedicated and with this determination, I have often found myself alone in the law library late into the night and on weekends. The time, effort and passion I have put into my studies have not always been reflected in my grades. 2017 was a difficult year as my pregnant wife had increasing health complications and the death of my Grandfather shortly before my exams had a causal effect on my results. It was with great resilience and fortitude that through the happy birth of my son I not only managed to maintain my grades through the next year, but I also improved them. In my final year I continued to improve my grades while raising a one year old, working part time and completing five law papers in each semester. As an older applicant, I know these life skills and important coping mechanisms will make me a resilient and reliable employee for my working life. An academic transcript is attached but does not include the results from my final year. These include Resource Management (C-), Intro to Commercial Law (C), Family Law (C), Intellectual Property (C+), Remedies (C+), Criminal Justice Process (B-), International Law (B-), Evidence (B), Employment Law (B) and Ethics (B).

Thank you for your time in considering my application and I hope to hear from you again during the application process. If you have any further questions after reading my resume please feel free to contact me on 0274734774 or at [gregory.burnand@gmail.com](mailto:gregory.burnand@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

Gregory Burnand