

Dominic Cornfield

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Personal Statement

I am in my final year of a law and arts conjoint degree at the University of Auckland. I am looking for long-term opportunities to commit myself to in legal practice, or fields that require legal skills. I plan on undertaking Professional Legal Studies in 2020 so that I can be admitted as a lawyer in New Zealand.

Professional Background

Education:

LLB/BA, University of Auckland

2014-2019

Major in Music, current GPA of 6.4 (B+) across both degrees

Student of Takapuna Grammar School

2009-2013

NCEA Level 3 with Excellence endorsement

- Subjects: English, Economics, Classics, Music and Statistics

Academic Achievements:

University of Auckland

2015-2019

Law:

- A Grade award in Commercial Law and Community Law Project
- A- Grade award in Psychiatry and the Law, Vendor and Purchaser, Law and Policy and Aspects of Insurance Law
- A Grade award in the Faculty of Law General Moot

Arts – First in Course Awards:

- Music 360: Music Education Research
- Music 241: Contemporary Musical Culture

School Awards

2013

- Donnell Trophy for Musical Composition
- Vernon Trophy for Instrumental Music

Cultural Achievements:

- Successful applicant into the 2013-2019 National Youth Brass Band(s) of New Zealand.
- Winner of the 2013 NZ Chamber Brass Ensemble Composition Competition 'Brassed On'.
- Successful applicant into the 2012 Under-18 National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand – Tour of China and representing New Zealand in its first entry in the Tianjin Children's Culture and Art Festival.

Relevant Skills and Experience

Legal Research

Throughout my study at law school, I have developed sound legal research skills through various assignments and specialised courses such as LAW399 Legal Research 2. I applied these skills to real legal work this year by taking Community Law Project with the New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice, as well as being employed part time as an on-call legal research assistant for Domain Legal and a law clerk at Samuel Moore, Barrister. This involved self-management in a wide range of tasks such as legal research in live cases, drafting court documents or letters to counsel and administrative duties. So far this experience has strengthened my enthusiasm for pursuing a career in law.

Academic Writing

I have had the opportunity to hone my writing skills during my NCEA Level 3 English education and various academic papers in University. This has helped me develop a proficiency in writing essays, reports and research papers, many of which earning A+ grades. I can confidently reference my writing using APA, Chicago and New Zealand Law styles. I have gained good results employing these skills in University, for example attaining an A+ and first in course award in Music Education Research and attaining an A in Commercial Law.

Teamwork

I have extensive experience playing and performing in a diverse range of musical ensembles, such as Orchestras, Choirs and Brass Bands. This has imbued me with the essential skills of not only taking direction but also working co-operatively as a team member. These transferable skills proved useful in a hospitality setting when I worked at McHugh's of Devonport as front-of-house/ wait staff for about four months. Additionally, I have also had some experiences of leadership in a musical capacity, for example being section leader and a senior player in North Shore Youth Brass Band.

Educator/Music Tutor

I have taught young children the keyboard at Belmont Music Centre for more than five years now. I work without supervision and often to a deadline so the role demands a strong work ethic. Teaching has developed my communication skills, ability to impart and receive knowledge and, above all, the value of patience. I aim to adapt my teaching method and delivery to the unique needs of every student; a process which I believe to be the essence of client handling skills. Additionally, this role has sharpened my customer service and interpersonal skills through interactions with my young students, their parents and the team of staff around me.

References

Samuel Moore: Current Employer at Samuel Moore, Barrister.

Email: samuel@samuelmoore.co.nz Phone: 02102246925

Sylvia Bell: Research Fellow at the New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice.

Email: sylvia.bell@auckland.ac.nz

James Turner: Current employer and manager at Belmont Music Centre

Email: belmontmusicmgr@gmail.com Phone: 0274970044

John Sullivan: President of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand

Email: jsullivan@customcontrols.co.nz Phone: 021736832