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**Simmonds Stewart**

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my strong interest in your graduate position. I am looking for opportunities to commit to in 2020, having just completed my final semester of a conjoint LLB/BA degree at the University of Auckland and. I also plan on taking Professional Legal Study next year.

My writing and research skills are highly developed, honed through NCEA Level 3 English and research based university papers. I have attained many high grades in university assignments and I am proficient in multiple styles of referencing. Recent achievements in this regard include receiving an A+ and top scoring essay in the Family Law essay and receiving overall grades in the A range in Commercial Law and Law and Psychiatry last year. I applied my research skills to real legal work by taking Community Law Project under Sylvia Bell and the New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law. This involved self-management in various projects, such as researching in a live pro bono case for a QC specialising in human rights.

More recently I have been engaged in on-call legal research work for Domain Legal and having been working part-time as a clerk at Samuel Moore Barrister. In this capacity, I have undertaken a range of legal and administrative tasks in such as conducting research, drafting court documents and writing letters to clients or other counsel. So far this experience has only strengthened my enthusiasm for pursuing a career in law.

My teamwork skills are proficient, developed over years of playing and performing in a variety of ensembles. In such ensembles, the essential skills of taking direction, working co-operatively alongside a team and using initiative when needed have become second nature to me. My experience as a musician has also imbued me with other transferable skills such as keeping a cool head under pressure, an attribute developed over many different forms of public performance. Such experience has enabled me to be a confident speaker when required, receiving an A grade in the Faculty of Law's General Moot last year for example.

Since 2013 I have taught the keyboard to diverse groups of children at Belmont Music Centre, as well as additional students privately. This has profoundly affected my communication and time management skills. The role demands being switched-on and observational at all times, as well as maintaining a positive attitude in the workplace. Due to the unique nature of music teachers, my role has sometimes required me to navigate sensitive and deeply personal family issues, further broadening my communication skills and overall perspective. As an educator, my underlying pedagogy is to adapt my approach to more personally connect and interact with each student. I believe this experience has instilled a strong foundation of client handling skills.

While I have not had much opportunity to explore the intersection between law and technology thus far it is certainly a prospect that excites me. In addition, I have displayed strong commercial instincts, such as attaining an A in Commercial Law last year, as well as recently attaining an A- Insurance Law and Vendor and Purchase. Above all, I relish the opportunity to gain exposure into legal practice and take the next steps in my education.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further details.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Cornfield