

Simmonds Stewart
Level 4, 4 Vulcan Lane
Auckland 1010

5 December 2019

Good day,

My name is Jarod Davies and I am writing in respect to the Graduate Lawyer position at Simmonds Stewart. This letter seeks to succinctly outline why I am an ideal candidate for this role.

For most of my life, I struggled with super morbid obesity. However, with unrelenting discipline, I have managed to lose 70 kg to date, with about 30kg still to lose.¹ The effects of the obesity were enormous, resulting in an ill-fated stint at studying a BCom in 2011–2012; this study regrettably being permanently included in my transcript's Cumulative GPA, which does not represent where I am today (my GPA for law papers is over B+). The learning experience from all of this, however, has been unparalleled: it was the risk of ruining my future that eventually compelled me to start fixing my life. This took exhaustive efforts and I remain proud that I am managing to turn my life around. This resounding achievement has shown I possess indomitable discipline, commitment, and dedication; and, above all, that I get results.

My main studies have now concluded; making me an LLB/BA 'graduand' (thus eligible for Professionals, which I plan to enrol in as soon as possible), with only my Honours dissertation (in the area of company law) to submit in January in order to upgrade that to an LLB (Hons)/BA.

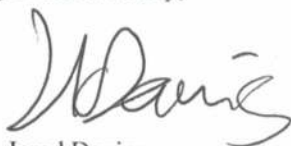
My experience as Managing Editor of the Auckland University Law Review means I have an excellent grasp of legal research, writing and citation; plus, a meticulous eye for detail and problem-solving, ideal for this role. Finally, my experience as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Auckland Law School has allowed me to hone my skills in oral communication, confidence, leadership, and above all — patience; all essential skills for a legal practitioner.

Some personal interests, apart from weight loss and general fitness, also involve general knowledge and trivia; I endeavour to learn as much as possible. Knowledge and learning are truly some of the greatest gifts; a serious passion of mine. My brief background in IT, plus my own interest in the area, has allowed me to possess a firm grasp of virtually anything computing-related. IT and technology are probably my greatest passions outside of the law, with one of my favourite areas being computer hardware (and software) of all types. Indeed, only this morning I read an article about neural networks and deep learning, from Ars Technica, which has compelled me to learn more about this subject, and I am intrigued as to what kind of future this technology could bring forth — hopefully a more prosperous one for all. Consequently, Simmonds Stewart is of particular interest to me — to be able to combine my passion for law (as a career) with my passion for technology (as a hobby) would, for me, prove to be nothing short of the holy grail of careers. Simmonds Stewart would, of course, benefit immensely from the combination of my two foremost passions in all the world.

Lastly, I have always had a penchant for applying copious amounts of logic, reason and objectivity to my life. I am the type of person that will always deeply consider my choices and actions; traits not easily examinable. Consequently, I always try my utmost to enshrine virtues such as honesty, genuineness, integrity, humility and compassion. I know such qualities would bring untold value to you because ultimately, legal practitioners need strong critical thinking and reasoning abilities on one hand, yet also need to be compassionate and understanding of clients' needs on the other.

For the foregoing reasons, I see myself as a small point of difference, thus a great candidate for this role. I would appreciate and welcome any opportunity to speak with you further in respect of my application.

Yours faithfully,



Jarod Davies

¹ So, I am still overweight, but considerably less so. I expect to finish my weight loss journey in approx. April 2020.

Jarod Davies

601/149 Nelson Street, Auckland Central, Auckland, 1010

m: 022 050 3453, e: jaroddavies@gmail.com

Summary of key skills

- ❖ I am driven, highly disciplined and committed to achieving any goal. The strong values that my weight loss journey has taught me can be applied to almost any area, especially employment. I am highly capable of working under pressure and coping with large workloads.
- ❖ My experience as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (Tutor) at the Auckland Law School has further enhanced my oral communication and leadership skills; as well as my confidence.
- ❖ Law Review editing is an independent, relatively unsupervised activity that requires a high attention to detail; doubly so when carrying out paid editing work. As the sole Managing Editor of Citations for 2019, this requires a high degree of problem solving and leadership ability, as I am ultimately responsible for *New Zealand Law Style Guide* compliance throughout the entire journal; plus, oversight and management over the team of Citations Editors.
- ❖ My work with the Equal Justice Project has further enhanced my sensitivity and compassion for those persons that are not as fortunate as myself. I am very pleased and humbled to be able to contribute my time to worthy causes.
- ❖ My role at City Gardens Apartments required high attention to detail and efficiency to comply with all regulatory requirements and to ensure smooth operation of the building.
- ❖ During my tenure, City Gardens housed residents from all over the world, so cultural sensitivity, understanding and compassion was essential for the role.
- ❖ During the times I was the Relief/Acting Building Manager of City Gardens, I had full management responsibility for the entire building. This required a strong capacity to lead and think on my feet to resolve any sudden problems that arose.
- ❖ I am very capable of working independently and without direction. My time as an IT Technician required independent work, often alone and unsupervised in clients' homes or businesses. It also demonstrates a high level of computer and IT literacy; which includes, but is not limited to, a comprehensive knowledge of office and productivity software.
- ❖ As an IT Technician, many problems that clients faced with their PCs was down to user error. As a result, I spent a lot of time teaching and instructing clients how to avoid the same problems in future, a task I highly enjoyed and found very rewarding. This role required connections to others in order to effectively teach and solve their problems.

Work and volunteer experience

July 2019-present

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Auckland Law School

I was appointed as a tutor to teach tutorial classes for the LAW 141 Legal Foundations course (a first-year compulsory law course). This role has allowed me to hone my oral communication skills, leadership skills, confidence, and ability to give constructive and useful feedback to others (through marking student assignments). In 2020, I aim to teach a Part II compulsory law course, such as Criminal Law.

The teaching evaluations I received from my students were nothing but positive — it was immensely encouraging and heartening to read my students' high level of satisfaction with my teaching.

March 2019-present:

Managing Editor (Citations)
Auckland University Law Review

This is more a managerial-type role than an editing role, including problem-solving (of contentious and tricky citations), monitoring the work of the Citations Editors and generally assisting the Editors-in-Chief with management of the journal.

September 2018-present:

Student Editor
New Zealand Law Review

I carried out some paid editing work for the New Zealand Law Review in 2018, and again this year. This involved editing citations, source-finding, formatting of the article and general stylistic alterations.

March 2018-March 2019:

Citations Editor
Auckland University Law Review

This role focused on the editing of citations in accordance with the New Zealand Law Style Guide. Furthermore, through the articles I have edited, I have learnt and been exposed to many different areas of law, substantially widening my knowledge.

March 2018-March 2019:

Volunteer Researcher, Pro Bono team
Equal Justice Project

Being a member of the Equal Justice Project (EJP) has been very rewarding. The Pro Bono teams carries out free legal research, writing and analysis for practitioners on important social issues. I worked on two large research projects last year, the first focusing on voluntourism and human trafficking, the second focusing on access to justice (by looking at court costs) in different jurisdictions.

January 2016-February 2017:

Administrative Assistant Building Manager; and Relief (Acting) Building Manager (periodically, on a few occasions).
City Gardens Apartments, Albert Street, Auckland

City Gardens is a major apartment complex with 16 floors and over 200 units. The effective operation of such a large residential building was an immense challenge. The occasions I was Relief (Acting) Manager were paid employment, but the assistant administrative side was closer to an internship/work experience type of role.

October-December 2008; 2009 and 2010.

Mail Officer
New Zealand Post, Napier

This position involved the processing of mail and parcels. This was a physically demanding position that required both high accuracy and speed in order to ensure the mail was processed accurately and on time.

April 2007-February 2011:

IT Technician
Self-employed, Napier

My responsibilities were wide, from repairing PCs, installing new hardware and peripherals, to instructing clients on correct PC use. I also carried out some basic website and database

design. I often performed work for a reduced rate or free of charge for certain clients, such as charitable organisations.

Personal achievements

Significant and independent weight-loss, 70 kg and counting, mid 2015-present.

With strict discipline, I have managed to lose 70 kg of weight to date, with about 35 kg still to go. The effects of the obesity were enormous, across all areas of my life; including my mental health and academic success — being super obese was a very humbling experience. Losing the weight was an immense challenge yet has been unfathomably rewarding.

I received scholarships in Years 9 and 13 of \$1,000 each for having a strong, unwavering work ethic and for having a positive attitude and commitment.

Education

LLB (Hons)/BA, University of Auckland, 2015-present.

This is my final, Part IV year. One of my main academic objectives for this year is to produce a top Honours dissertation within the area of company law.

I had a brief stint studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce around 2011–2012. However, as this was at the height of my depression and obesity, that performance (which unfortunately included my first LAW 121G — Law and Society attempt in 2014), as well as my overall secondary schooling, bears no resemblance to my current studies in Law and Arts. I discontinued that programme in mid-2012. I must offer a brief defence for that — the lifelong obesity and consequent depression meant I was often too afraid or too unwell to leave my apartment; meaning I missed many classes and failed my courses as a result. It does not, in any way, represent the person I am today, 8 years later. I am immensely proud that I managed to sort out my mental health and obesity to go from where I was in pre-2015 to where I am today.

My BA major is Philosophy, further specialising in Ethics, which has enhanced my critical thinking skills immensely, more so than even law school.

NCEA Levels 1-3 with Merit; University Entrance, William Colenso College, 2004-2010.

Personal interests

- Computers, IT and the like are some of my strongest and most intense interests.
- I have a strong fondness for research and investigation; anything I find particularly interesting I will research and study in my spare time. I have a love of general knowledge, trivia and quizzing — I take great pleasure in learning as much as possible about as many different topics as possible; a hobby that many people would find boring. Education and attaining wisdom are what I prize in life, not material objects.
- I have a keen interest in tax law and policy, which is crucial in the sense that tax revenue pays for justice and other vital services, giving it an unparalleled constitutional importance. Company law is also one of my favourite areas — and the topic of my Honours dissertation.
- I have a keen interest in issues related to human rights and environmentalism.
- I enjoy many other intellectual pursuits and I am a member of various academic-orientated clubs at the university, such as the Philosophy Society, Mooting Society, Debating Club and others.
- I was (and remain) an excellent swimmer, and during my younger years was a member of the Napier Aquahawks swim team's development squad for future representatives of Napier. Unfortunately, I had to give up swimming when my weight got out of control. I am, however, intending to undertake a swimming resurgence in the future.
- I have only recently discovered my Maori heritage when I received a letter from Ngapuhi concerning their referendum last year. I fully intend to explore my ancestry when I get some free time.
- The arts: musical theatre, opera and general culture are high up on my list of interests; resulting from a childhood spent with a grandmother heavily invested in culture.

Referees

Mr Grant Dearn

Head of Strength and Conditioning, NEC Green Rockets, Japan

grantkdearns@gmail.com

+8108020182710 (Japan)

Mr Marcus Roberts

Co Editor-in-Chief, New Zealand Law Review; Senior Lecturer, Auckland Law School

m.roberts@auckland.ac.nz

09 923 8802

Mr Jae Kim

Judges' Clerk, High Court Auckland

jaejun093@hotmail.com

021 082 74434

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

Academic Programme History

Programme: **Bachelor of Commerce**
Major in International Business
Major in Management
12/01/2011 Active in Programme
24/07/2012 Discontinued

Programme: **Bachelor of Arts**
Major in Politics and International Relations
Minor in Sociology
20/12/2013 Active in Programme
06/04/2016 Discontinued

Programme: **Bachelor of Laws**
Specialisation in Law
20/12/2013 Active in Programme
06/04/2016 Discontinued

Programme: **Certificate of Proficiency**
Specialisation in Law
18/07/2014 Active in Programme
01/10/2015 Discontinued

Programme: **Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws Conjoint**
Major in Philosophy
Specialisation in Law
29/02/2016 Active in Programme
17/02/2018 Discontinued

Programme: **Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Conjoint**
Specialisation in Law
Major in Philosophy
31/01/2018 Active in Programme

Beginning of Formal Award Record

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>
'11 Sem1 (28/02/2011 - 27/06/2011)					
Enrolled Full-Time					
BCOM	ACCTG	101 Accounting Information	15.00	0.00	Fail D

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

BCOM	BUSINESS	101	Business and Enterprise 1	15.00	0.00	Fail D-
BCOM	ECON	191	Business Economics	15.00	15.00	Pass C
BCOM	INFOSYS	110	Business Computing	15.00	15.00	Pass C

Term GPA	1.000	Term Totals	60.00	30.00
Cumulative GPA	1.000	Cumulative Totals	60.00	30.00

'11 Sem2 (18/07/2011 - 14/11/2011)

Enrolled Full-Time

BCOM	ACCTG	101	Accounting Information	15.00	15.00	Pass C
BCOM	BUSINESS	101	Business and Enterprise 1	15.00	0.00	Fail D
BCOM	COMLAW	101	Law in a Business Environment	15.00	15.00	Pass B
BCOM	STATS	108	Statistics for Commerce	15.00	0.00	Did Not Sit

Term GPA	1.750	Term Totals	60.00	30.00
Cumulative GPA	1.375	Cumulative Totals	120.00	60.00

'12 Sem1 (27/02/2012 - 25/06/2012)

Enrolled Part-Time

BCOM	BUSINESS	101	Business and Enterprise 1	15.00	0.00	Did Not Sit
BCOM	COMLAW	203	Company Law	15.00	0.00	Did Not Sit
BCOM	STATS	108	Statistics for Commerce	15.00	0.00	Did Not Sit

Term GPA	0.000	Term Totals	45.00	0.00
Cumulative GPA	1.000	Cumulative Totals	165.00	60.00

'14 Sem1 (03/03/2014 - 30/06/2014)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	OL	ACADINT	A01	Academic Integrity Course	0.00	0.00	Completed
BALBH		ANTHRO	106	Issues and History in Popular Music	15.00	15.00	Pass B-
BALBH		LAW	121G	Law and Society	15.00	15.00	Pass C-
BALBH		POLITICS	113	Politics and the Media	15.00	15.00	Pass B
BALBH		SOCIOL	100	Issues and Themes in Sociology	15.00	15.00	Pass A

Term GPA	4.500	Term Totals	60.00	60.00
Cumulative GPA	1.933	Cumulative Totals	225.00	120.00

'14 Sem2 (21/07/2014 - 17/11/2014)

Enrolled Part-Time

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

COPUA	LAW	121G	Law and Society	15.00	0.00	Pass B+
<i>Repeated:</i>			<i>Repeated for Certificate of Proficiency</i>			
BALBH	PHIL	105G	Critical Thinking	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	POLITICS	107	New Zealand Politics	15.00	15.00	Pass C+
Term GPA	5.000	Term Totals	45.00	30.00		
Cumulative GPA	2.444	Cumulative Totals	270.00	150.00		

***15 Sem1 (02/03/2015 - 29/06/2015)**

Enrolled Full-Time						
BALBH	ANTHRO	101	World Archaeology	15.00	15.00	Pass B-
BALBH	PHIL	103	Freedom, Rights and Justice	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	PHIL	217	Philosophy of Law	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	SOCIOL	103	Social Policy, Social Justice	15.00	15.00	Pass B
Term GPA	5.250	Term Totals	60.00	60.00		
Cumulative GPA	2.955	Cumulative Totals	330.00	210.00		

***15 Sem2 (20/07/2015 - 16/11/2015)**

Enrolled Full-Time						
BALBH	LAW	131	Legal Method	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	PHIL	102	Introduction to Ethics	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	PHIL	152	Philosophy and Theories of Human Nature	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	SOCIOL	102	Becoming Modern: The Origins and Consequences of Modernity	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	SOCIOL	106	Sociology for Auckland	15.00	15.00	Pass A
Term GPA	6.600	Term Totals	75.00	75.00		
Cumulative GPA	3.630	Cumulative Totals	405.00	285.00		

***16 Sem1 (29/02/2016 - 27/06/2016)**

Enrolled Full-Time						
BALBH	LAW	231A	Law of Torts	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAW	298A	Legal Research, Writing and Communication	5.00	5.00	Pass A-
BALBH	PHIL	210	Applied Ethics	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	PHIL	250	Philosophy and the Environment	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
Term GPA	6.100	Term Totals	50.00	50.00		
Cumulative GPA	3.901	Cumulative Totals	455.00	335.00		

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

'16 Sem2 (18/07/2016 - 14/11/2016)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	231B	Law of Torts	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAW	298B	Legal Research, Writing and Communication	5.00	5.00	Pass A-
BALBH	PHIL	338	Problems in Epistemology	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	PHIL	345	Power, Critique and Emancipation	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
Term GPA	6.100	Term Totals	50.00	50.00		
Cumulative GPA	4.119	Cumulative Totals	505.00	385.00		

'17 Sem1 (06/03/2017 - 03/07/2017)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	201A	Criminal Law	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAW	211A	Public Law	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAW	241A	Law of Contract	15.00	15.00	Pass B
BALBH	MEDSCI	100G	Human Mind and Body Relationships	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
Term GPA	6.250	Term Totals	60.00	60.00		
Cumulative GPA	4.345	Cumulative Totals	565.00	445.00		

'17 Sem2 (24/07/2017 - 20/11/2017)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	201B	Criminal Law	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAW	211B	Public Law	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAW	241B	Law of Contract	15.00	15.00	Pass B
BALBH	PHIL	318	Theory of Applied and Professional Ethics	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
Term GPA	6.250	Term Totals	60.00	60.00		
Cumulative GPA	4.528	Cumulative Totals	625.00	505.00		

'18 Sem1 (26/02/2018 - 25/06/2018)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	301A	Land Law	10.00	10.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAW	306A	Equity	10.00	10.00	Pass B
BALBH	LAW	316	Jurisprudence	15.00	15.00	Pass B
BALBH	LAWCOMM	421	Commercial Arbitration	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAWHONS	733A	Studies in Contract Law	10.00	10.00	Pass C+
BALBH	PHIL	340	Kant and Hegel	15.00	15.00	Pass B
Term GPA	5.267	Term Totals	75.00	75.00		
Cumulative GPA	4.607	Cumulative Totals	700.00	580.00		

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

'18 Sem2 (16/07/2018 - 12/11/2018)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	301B	Land Law	10.00	10.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAW	306B	Equity	10.00	10.00	Pass B
BALBH	LAW	399	Legal Research 2	10.00	10.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAW	458	Legal Ethics	10.00	10.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAWHONS	733B	Studies in Contract Law	10.00	10.00	Pass C+
BALBH	PHIL	341	Phenomenology and Hermeneutics	15.00	15.00	Pass B+
BALBH	POLITICS	249	Freedom and Limits of State Action	15.00	15.00	Pass B+

Term GPA	5.625	Term Totals	80.00	80.00
Cumulative GPA	4.712	Cumulative Totals	780.00	660.00

'19 SumSch (07/01/2019 - 20/02/2019)

Enrolled Part-Time

BALBH	LAWCOMM	437	Iwi Corporate Governance	15.00	15.00	Pass A-
-------	---------	-----	--------------------------	-------	-------	---------

Term GPA	7.000	Term Totals	15.00	15.00
Cumulative GPA	4.755	Cumulative Totals	795.00	675.00

'19 Sem1 (04/03/2019 - 01/07/2019)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAWCOMM	402	Company Law	20.00	20.00	Pass A-
BALBH	LAWCOMM	403	Tax Law	20.00	20.00	Pass B
BALBH	LAWGENRL	401	Evidence	20.00	20.00	Pass B
BALBH	PHIL	327	Philosophy of Religion	15.00	15.00	Pass B+

Term GPA	5.733	Term Totals	75.00	75.00
Cumulative GPA	4.839	Cumulative Totals	870.00	750.00

'19 Sem2 (22/07/2019 - 18/11/2019)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAW	498	Advanced Legal Research, Writing and Communication	0.00	0.00	Enrolled
BALBH	LAWCOMM	404	Intellectual Property	20.00	20.00	Pass B+
BALBH	LAWCOMM	422	Competition Law	15.00	15.00	Pass A
BALBH	LAWCOMM	451	Construction Law	15.00	0.00	Enrolled
BALBH	LAWPUBL	425	Employment Law	15.00	0.00	Enrolled

Term GPA	6.857	Term Totals	65.00	35.00
Cumulative GPA	4.917	Cumulative Totals	935.00	785.00

Internal Transcript

Not an official transcript. For use within The University of Auckland only

Name: Jarod Keegan Hughes Davies
Student ID: 5636892
Entrance Qualification: 2010 Entrance from NCEA Level 3

'20 SumSch (06/01/2020 - 19/02/2020)

Enrolled Full-Time

BALBH	LAWHONS	789	Dissertation	40.00	0.00	Enrolled
-------	---------	-----	--------------	-------	------	----------

Term GPA	0.000	Term Totals	40.00	0.00
Cumulative GPA	4.917	Cumulative Totals	975.00	785.00

End of Formal Award Record

End of Internal Transcript