

To Simmonds Stewart

I am beyond excited to submit my application for the Graduate Lawyer role at Simmonds Stewart. As a new lawyer with a degree in Science and passion for innovation I was immediately attracted by the unique opportunity to work in technology focused legal firm. I am fascinated by the way that entrepreneurship and disruptive technology has the potential to shape our future and would love the opportunity to fuse my two interests by immersing myself in the tech start-up eco-system, and contribute to the future of innovation in New Zealand.

On further investigation I was particularly impressed by some of the free legal resources Simmonds Stewart has provided online. The accessibility of legal services is something I am passionate about and see as increasingly important especially with the potential promised by the explosion of legal AI. Outside of the rare opportunity to work with tech start-ups from end-to-end, I am enthused by the prospect of working alongside your team on business development and the legal tech programme to transform how legal work is done going forward.

For some background I am a recent Law and Science graduate from the University of Otago in New Zealand. I returned to Wellington in March from a seasonal job in Japan to complete my Professional Legal Studies full time, and am currently waiting on my admission by the New Zealand Law Society. I am currently located in Wellington working as a contractor at Te Arawhiti but am available for relocation and immediate start in the New Year.

Subsequent to my graduation I worked as an Advisor and Analyst for the Deputy Director General of Corporate Services in the New Zealand Government Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for just over 2 years. During that time, I had a broad range of responsibilities at a senior level, including strategic planning and reporting, as well a risk and customer experience analysis across the full range of Corporate functions. While I enjoyed the wide gamut of commercial experience this role afforded me, I am now looking to continue my personal development and begin my career in Corporate and Commercial Law.

Although my professional experience has not been strictly legal, and I have not taken the most traditional legal path in my career so far, I do think my experience in the public sector and the fact I have completed my professional legal studies would place me well to make an immediate impact at Simmonds Stewart if given the opportunity. I have the established skills and experience to draft and review contracts, prepare research and information to solve problems on my initiative, as well as the ability to assist decision makers at a strategic level.

Acting as an advisor (and more recently as a Contractor) requires the confidence to simultaneously wear multiple hats in a dynamic and often high-pressure environment, working to meet tight deadlines and the often-demanding expectations of diverse and senior leaders. Furthermore, this role provided me practical experience in the art of structuring and clearly presenting arguments, providing recourse in ambiguity and tactfully influencing and advising the best course of action.

My outgoing personality and ability to adapt my approach to the needs of a specific audience, as well as to grow and maintain long term relationships, places me well to productively engage with clients and to collaborate as part of a team. I am an enthusiastic team player, who can confidently perform my role as required, or alternatively work on my own initiative to create innovative solutions and achieve the best possible outcome for all parties involved.

On a personal note, my recent trip to Japan challenged my resourcefulness and ability to operate outside of my comfort zone, adjusting to a new language and culture without the established relationships or knowledge I might have to lean on otherwise. In this way the transferable set of skills I have adopted and developed in both my personal and professional life, allow me to adjust and perform quickly, and will provide the platform for me to make a valuable contribution to your team immediately.

I am excited at the prospect of developing in a collaborative and supportive workplace culture at the interface of emerging technology and the law. As well as the opportunity to draw upon on (and challenge) my technical knowledge and established soft skills by working hand-on with partners and clients to help start-ups and other companies with their capital raisings, governance work and other transactions.

I appreciate your time and consideration and would love an opportunity to discuss this role further with you in person.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Antoniadis