**Personal Statement**

Nowadays, every professional requires management skills. It is no longer enough for a lawyer to be an expert only in rules, doctrines, and legal codes.~~,~~ ~~as often times, lawyers work~~ Lawyers must now work closely with business professionals, entrepreneurs, and diplomats. For this reason, I resolved to obtain a master’s degree in management, wherein I can ~~employ~~ the academic and communication skills I developed through my study of law. Attaining such a degree would equip me for my future career as a lawyer, with an expertise to realize my ~~eventual~~ goal of opening my own law firm.

Throughout my college years, I have exposed myself to different courses in management. As a visiting student at UCLA, I studied microeconomics, and despite my unfamiliarity with this subject, developed an interest in it. Additionally, I was chosen for a Leadership program at Cal State Fullerton, where I learned about MBTI, communication, and speech. In our team building class, the students were grouped into several teams to finish a project, and the team I led won the first prize.

Apart from my academic pursuits, I ~~engaged~~ in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities that enhanced my management skills. In my sophomore year at South China Agricultural University, I ~~headed~~ the publicity committee of the Tourism Association, where ~~I~~ ~~increased~~ the number of new recruits by 50% through effective ~~publicity~~. In August 2009, I practiced my skills in business by opening a booth at a flower market with my friends. We ~~earned~~ many customers through our hard work and unique ideas

~~such as~~ by stocking unique ~~and~~ flower~~s~~ rarely seen in the local market. After earning 200% of our capital, or 12000 RMB, I gained a deeper insight into how enterprises are operated, and how much perseverance pays off. In 2010, I ~~likewise~~ served as an accounting assistant at the Haojiang Hotel, which acquainted me with the art of keeping financial records and hotel operations.

       To accumulate professional experience in my chosen field, I applied for an internship at a law firm in 2012, where I served as an assistant to a senior lawyer. As I devoted my time to a single criminal case, I realized that our work requires ~~more than academic knowledge and involved a significant amount of careful research~~. Similar to a jigsaw puzzle, a case involves putting together several ideas to solve the problem. I also learned that~~, at present,~~ legal practice is no longer merely a profession but also a business. It requires obtaining clients, maintaining good ~~relationship with colleagues and partner~~, marketing one’s self and the firm, as well as keeping abreast with the latest innovations in society.

       Apart from these professional and co-curricular pursuits, I am also devoted to calligraphy and painting, having studied these crafts since I was 7 years old. Although my academic schedule has become hectic, I ~~did not lose~~ my passion in the arts, and still design websites as a part-time job. Moreover, as a member of my college’s Red Cross volunteer corps, I regularly ~~engaged in community services such as visiting the home for the aged to attend to the homeless elderly~~. I have also organized charity drives for local orphanages in our university.

In January 2012, I went to New Delhi, India as a volunteer for the NGO, Earth Savior Foundation. I helped the staff organize fund-raising activities for the poor children in the area. We collected used ~~clothes~~ donated by the locals and began a rummage sale in the NGO headquarters. I also helped the staff ~~arrange a comprehensive electronic network of contacts as potential sponsors to enable them to easily find sponsors~~. In addition, after learning that these children, many of whom were over 13, have never heard of tennis, volleyball, or badminton for their lack of sports education, I led other volunteers who come from different countries to start a PE class. My experience as a volunteer in India significantly improved my communication and leadership skills. Most importantly, the smiles on the children's faces as they learned new ideas and sports, or held the new books paid for by the money we raised, I felt an overwhelming sense f fulfillment and peace in my heart.

Through my four years of legal study and several internships, I developed the requisite professional skills vital in business management. ~~Legal practice and business management correlate to each other, in that the fields of contract law, intellectual property law, and employment law is crucial in business~~. My knowledge in law ~~afforded~~ me a framework through which I can analyze the legal implications of business decisions ~~and the business implications of legal decisions~~, as well as ethical considerations. I have cultivated a creative, logical, and highly analytical thinking, excellent oral and written communication skills, and strong ~~interpersonal~~ abilities.

Though I have had numerous experiences in management, I still wish to acquire a systematic academic study and training in management, especially with my dream of opening my own law firm. To achieve this goal, I have chosen the MSc in Management program of the University of Loughborough. Through this program, I will be given the opportunity to attend classes in my areas of interest, which include accounting, finance management, decision-making, and risk management. With students from all over the world and a rich academic atmosphere, I am guaranteed of a diverse and multi-cultural academic experience. As the authority in law and economics studies in the UK, this institution would grant me access to government, international, and non-profit organizations that could serve as an ideal platform for me to build a more comprehensive professional network. After completing the MSc program, I intend to return to ~~our~~ country and begin a career with a local or foreign law firm. As I establish myself in this profession, I would ~~to~~ take the CFA exams to gain an integrated background in law and finance~~, a field related to management~~. With sufficient knowledge and experience, I would ~~no doubt~~ reach success and fulfill my dream of establishing my own law firm.