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Law Statement of Purpose

It was not an easy decision to defer my plan for law school earlier this year, but I had some compelling reasons to do so. First, I achieved a higher LSAT score in June, which made me hope for a more successful application cycle. Second, because my goal as a lawyer is to bridge the gap between law, technology, and business, I wanted to transition from a technologist to a lawyer by spending a year working as an entrepreneur.

This step builds on a six-years adventure in computer science, during which I have grown from a student developing mobile applications for fun to a senior software engineer in the industry. In the past, I have had the honor to participate and lead the development of software for several big companies. Some programs became key components of the companies' platform strategies while others have gone on to be used by people across the globe. Yet, I have always dreamed of writing software for my own company. Thus, when two friends of mine consulted with me about co-founding an e-commerce business, I knew my opportunity had come. Our ambition is to build the largest online retailer selling oriental food in the UK. The software system is at the core of the business, and my role is to develop it.

It turns out that developing software for my own startup is very different than doing it for an established company. A startup, aptly named, does not have the precedent that is usual in big companies so I had to create everything from zero. This involved not just the code of the software, but the entire technology stack: servers on the Amazon cloud, website domain name, network security certificate, search engine optimization, etc. Moreover, I needed to write software for some business domains with which I had little familiarity, and I faced a steep learning curve. There is also never enough time; moving fast is the key to startup success. However, to not affect my full-time job, I could only work on my nights and weekends. It has been one of the hardest but most fruitful undertakings of my life.

And it has been gratifying to see my contributions help the company grow. After three months of arduous work, I have developed software that handles user accounts, orders, payments, promotions and coupons for the business, and the company has begun operating. On a typical day, we receive about 30 orders, which amounts to a daily revenue of roughly 1000 pounds, but our potential is far beyond what the numbers reflect. We have once done a promotion on social media, and the feedback from customers exhausted our stock within 3 hours. In handling customer demands, our software is way ahead of our warehouse at this moment.

Another reward I have reaped from the startup is to gain hands-on experience in building a company. For a tech startup like ours, a healthy cash flow and a robust software system are ostensibly the key factors to success. My experience, however, allows me to attest an equally vital factor for the company: a solid legal foundation.

My founding partners know my plan for law, and they count on me to take charge of the company's legal issues, which comes with great responsibilities. At first, I scrutinized laws in the heavily regulated areas related to our business, such as online payment and food delivery. Later, I acquainted myself with employment law when we hired our first delivery driver and warehouse picker as independent contractors. On the technology and law side, I checked the licenses of open-source software libraries used in our system in order to prevent copyright infringement. To protect our own intellectual properties and in preparation for brand licensing, I am applying to register our trademark in the UK. Thus, while I have been busy fulfilling my entrepreneur dream, I have not left behind my goal of becoming a lawyer. Indeed, my experience has shown me the complexity of legal issues faced by entrepreneurs and has further solidified my desire and need to study law.

I applied to law school last year and was grateful to be accepted at some prestigious schools, so it was not an easy decision to defer my plans of attending. However by adding entrepreneurship to my diverse work and education experience, I am certain that this time I am in an even better position to attend law school and be a successful attorney.

The wave of technological innovations calls for lawyers who can comprehend the interaction of law, technology and business, and I strive to be the best among them. I cannot wait for my legal education to start.

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