

BPP University
137 Stamford Street
London SE1 9NN

5th November 2020

Dear sirs,

Re: Dr Christian Laurent

I write in support of the above-named candidate's application for a bar training scholarship. I have known Christian since he commenced his studies on BPP's PGDL programme in September 2020 at BPP Cambridge. I am the programme leader for the Cambridge centre and also Christian's tutor for the law of torts.

It is early days on the PGDL but Christian has already demonstrated that he could turn into a very able barrister. Articulate and confident, his oral contributions to class are always interesting and thought-provoking. His written analysis is very thorough and he often spots points rarely seen. He will learn during pupillage that the devil is in the detail and I believe the forensic way in which he goes about applying the law to factual scenarios will serve him well. He often takes a leadership role in group work in tutorials, is capable of thinking on his feet and, even where the topic is a complex one, invariably exudes an air of competence and confidence. A distinction, and a good one at that, is well within his capabilities.

Christian's academic pedigree is impressive and is supplemented by a steely determination to throw himself into life at the bar. I do not know which area of work he proposes to go into but he has an impressive science background and he could use that well. Either way, I know he has researched the profession and is fully aware of the levels of commitment success will require – a matter that he rightly sees as a challenge rather than an obstacle.

Christian is a very polite and professional person with a calm, easy authority that will serve him well with lay clients in particular. He cares about the wellbeing of his classmates and I imagine colleagues will find the same in chambers. This will ensure he is well liked by colleagues and professional clients and I can see him wanting to play a key role in the life of whichever chambers he joins. It is my pleasure to commend the candidate to you.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Higgins, MA BCL (Oxon), FHEA
Barrister
Centre programme leader (GDL and PGDL/LLM programmes – BPP Cambridge)