

Sam Smith

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Lisa Lawyer
Dewey, Cheatem, & Howe
123 Main St. Suite 100
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Ms. Lawyer:

I am a third-year student at the University of Wisconsin Law School, and I write to apply for an entry-level attorney position with Dewey, Cheatem, & Howe. I am particularly drawn to your firm's reputation for practical, results-oriented representation and its commitment to serving clients across Madison and the surrounding communities. I am eager to begin my legal career in a setting that values both strong advocacy and responsiveness to client needs.

I bring a diverse set of experiences and a demonstrated commitment to serving underserved populations. Prior to law school, I worked for over four years as a Disability Benefit Specialist, advocating for 50–60 clients at a time, many of whom were indigent or managing mental illness. In that role, I guided clients through complex administrative systems and fought persistently to secure benefits. I also served four years on the Appleton City Council, where I was elected twice. This experience required me to quickly synthesize complex information, communicate effectively with diverse audiences, and make sound decisions under public scrutiny.

My law school training has prepared me to contribute meaningfully from day one. Acting on advice from experienced attorneys, I aimed to gain as much courtroom experience as possible. I actively sought opportunities to appear on the record and advocate in high-stakes settings. As a clinical law student, I first-chaired a successful deportation hearing in Chicago Immigration Court. More recently, during my 2L summer internship, I appeared daily in court, arguing bail and custody matters in a fast-paced environment. I also first-chaired a misdemeanor bench trial; following my cross-examination of the complainant, the court encouraged the prosecution to extend a favorable resolution that had not been offered prior to trial.

I am particularly interested in building my career in Madison and contributing to a firm where I can continue developing as a litigator while providing thoughtful, client-centered representation. I am confident that my background, courtroom experience, and commitment to advocacy align well with the values of Dewey.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to your firm.

Sincerely,

Sam Smith