

April 23rd, 1997 was the day my family first set foot on American soil. The strenuousness my family endured during the early years of my life has molded me into the individual I am today. My compassion towards helping others stems from watching my family struggle to create a new life in a new land, learn an unfamiliar language, and assimilate into an unaccustomed culture. My mother spent the duration of her pregnancy under a constant cloak of fear. Separated from my father, undergoing starvation and having a constant fear of being killed, my mother struggled to escape from the warfare in Bosnia during the early 1990s. My father was held captive in a concentration camp; his memories still haunt him to this day. In 1993 my mother successfully escaped to Germany where she gave birth to me a few weeks after her arrival. This did not end the efforts of my parents to sustain a safe and stable life for me. They worked day and night for four years in order to acquire enough money for them and my father's parents to move to America to begin a new and, safer, life. This relocation established a new beginning for our family and put into motion my parent's dreams of providing me with the greatest opportunities life had to offer.

From a young age, I became increasingly passionate about my education as it formed a way for me to compensate my family for their sacrifices, and always felt an attraction to academic concepts that related to the law. I found it insightful to see how the law was utilized to provide stability, safety, organization, and fundamental rights to people. Moreover, I thought very highly of the attorneys our friends and family were corresponding with as we stabilized ourselves in the United States. I was motivated to become an attorney and be able to help others in the same forms: to provide guidance, advocate on behalf of others, and to simply lend a helping hand where it is needed.

My passion for the legal field also stems through my direct experiences with the Guardian ad Litem Program. Between September 2013 and March 2015 I contributed over 280 hours of legal services to children and families in need of assistance through the Judicial Circuit Court. The organization has given me the opportunity to attend court hearings, counsel and interview clients, and research and draft legal memorandums. I was consistently compelled to go above and beyond in order to successfully sustain the needs of my clients. In doing so, I have become comfortable in making tenacious decisions in high-paced environments. Moreover, I have educated myself in the various resources available to me in order to efficaciously derive results. My experiences have helped me develop strong communication skills, the ability to foster professional relationships, and act as a point of contact between parties. The organization has forever impacted me and my view of the world. Through my involvement on diverse cases, I became educated in the various components that illustrate how the judicial system is able to aid those in need. I have seen a world that requires rapid reform for the betterment of our communities. I see the faces of helpless children that seek a voice to reflect their best interest. I see myself pursuing an education in an accredited law school in order to sustain the knowledge and opportunity to advance in a career that will benefit our communities and the hearts of our children.

As a Digital Court Reporter for four years, I have expanded my knowledge of legal terminology, courtroom decorum, and fostered a relationship with diverse judicial entities within the Judicial Circuit. Being an active participant through motions, trials, and sentencing phases has further enforced my desire to pursue a legal career. I have had the advantage of being cognizant of diverse motions and proceedings in cases pertaining to the welfare of a child and various criminal dealings from bond motions to motions to suppress in

murder cases. It is fascinating to be able to sit through proceedings and see firsthand the diverse issues that arise through the judicial process, as well as different objections that are taken into consideration, and understanding the Court's path to deriving decisions.

I have advanced myself academically as a Bachelor's graduate from the [redacted] with a major in Criminology. The knowledge I have gained through legal studies has advanced my comprehension of diverse areas of the law and ways to implement my studies into daily routine. Furthermore, I am an ambitious and hardworking professional who is extremely detail-oriented, dependable, organized, and a team player. I thrive in fast-paced environments where I am challenged and able to foster my leadership capabilities in an efficacious manner. Additionally, my compassion, integrity, and ability to work effectively with others in any environment would contribute to the success of any legal agency. I have further expanded my knowledge in research and legal skills through completion of the Paralegal Professional Certification Course offered through the [redacted]. In that position, my research and studies were focused on promoting my understanding of diverse legal entities and the court system.

Above all, my experiences both personally and professionally have opened my eyes to the degree of dedication and time it takes to make a positive change in the world. There were times after a full day of work, going to class, and spending time volunteering with clients I still felt like I did not have enough power to make the kind of impact I wanted to see; this is why a legal degree is so crucial to me. Law school is not just a way to give back to my family, but also to pave the way for future generations and families that are struggling right now. This scholarship would avail me the opportunity to achieve my goals, and further my efforts in bettering our communities.