

Although my aspiration for my future career has changed over time, I always knew that I wanted to be able to instill extraordinary change within the world. It is hard to imagine any career that could implement positive progress felt by millions, so over the years I searched for answers, hoping that I would be led towards a career that would fulfill this aspiration.

I began to gain a concrete sense of the career that I would pursue while attending my freshmen physics course. I was captivated by the introduction of the chaos theory; a mathematical theory focused on the behavior of dynamical systems. Specifically, I was intrigued by a principle of the theory proposed by mathematician Edward Lorenz, known as the butterfly effect. This principle outlines that small changes in the initial state of a nonlinear system can result in large differences in a latter state. Simply put, the butterfly effect purports that incredibly small changes in the initial conditions of something can lead to drastic changes in the results. This theory grants that a butterfly, in flapping its wings in New Mexico, can cause a hurricane in China, thousands of miles away. Although this concept may seem irrelevant to the field of law, it enabled me to put my goals regarding my future career into perspective.

My initial motivation to become an attorney has stemmed from experiences within my home life. Socioeconomically, my family of ten has struggled. The Hayden family consists of eight children, and with one child who was born severely disabled and requires constant and costly medical attention, there has been little to no disposable income available. As I grew older my mother explained to me that our family's sparse funds would force me face obstacles that many of the kids around me would not. Although these words were hard to hear, she assured me that my success in life was not dependent on what I was given, but was dependent on what I chose to do with what I was given. I understood that I would have to develop a strong sense of

determination and resilience in order to achieve the things I desired. However, I am a visual learner, and it was not until my youngest brother was born that I was able to experience these characteristics in a completely higher sense than I ever had before.

My brother Tommy was born with Spinabifida: a life altering disease that left him immobile from the waist down. From the moment he woke up in the morning, I would see Tommy face thousands of obstacles a day. He required assistance to get out of the bed, to get into his wheelchair, to use the bathroom, to get dressed, and to wet his toothbrush. My whole family was more than willing to take over daily tasks on Tommy's behalf, but he was adamant on learning to do things as independently as he could. I watched as he struggled to move himself to the other side of the sofa to grab the remote in a room full of people, I saw his frustration in trying to flip on the light switches, and I noticed every time he dropped something and tried desperately to pick it up. However, what I recognized most of all was his pure sense of fortitude: his resilience to employ bravery and dedication in the obstacles that were put before him. Although Thomas was repeatedly told by his doctors and therapists that the likelihood of him living semi-independently, doing well in school, and engaging in any physical activity was incredibly slim, he refused to accept his condition as disabling. Instead, he chose to show the world that strength doesn't come from what you can do, but rather, from overcoming the things you thought you couldn't.

Watching my brother achieve all these things with a debilitating disease has continually inspired me to approach my life in the same way. Through fortitude and resilience, I took the shots I never thought I would; I applied and received numerous competitive academic scholarships in order to attend college, I accepted positions in leadership roles, demanding

internships, and will soon graduating at the top 5% of my class. Most recently, given that I am able to obtain funding, I will start my first semester of law school.

I hope to continue to apply these characteristics in shaping my career as a lawyer, in which I plan to focus on representing those whose voice's are often overlooked or forgotten. Often times people who are marginalized, socioeconomically deprived, or underrepresented feel that justice is not as attainable for them. It can be incredibly hard to stand up against the wrong doings of large companies, powerful individuals, and those of authority. However, I believe that justice does not discriminate and that advocacy should be extended towards everyone. Thus, my work within the realm of civil law will be aimed at extending a helping hand to those who would have otherwise been unlikely to obtain one.

Within my law career, I seek to not only be an advocate but to also be a leader. After graduating law school, my goal is to achieve my long held dream of starting a non-profit organization with my brother Thomas that aims to promote the educational, economical, and social welfare of disadvantaged children and young adults in the Houston area, mainly through guidance towards higher education and the promotion of future careers within the realm of law and social service. Not only will this organization extend advocacy to the children and young adults it will mentor, but it will also focus on hiring employees and volunteers from the physically disabled community, as employment is likely an obstacle that Thomas, among many others, will likely face. I believe that extending advocacy and leadership in this way will be incredibly powerful, because as Tommy, myself, and all others who have come from challenging situations have proved, hardships often prepare ordinary people for extraordinary things. I was fortunate enough to have such an amazing example of strength through my little brother, but

many children and young adults are not afforded that example. In the aim of instilling extraordinary progress and change within our society, I strongly believe that by enabling young America to realize their infinite potential, extraordinary change will occur.

Although my success as a lawyer and a leader may seem minuscule on the scale of our world, it has been proven that a small change can lead to extraordinary outcomes. So, like a butterfly causing a hurricane, I believe that I change the world for the better by promoting and instilling the narrative that success is not dependent on what a person is given; but is, through fortitude and resilience, attainable for all.