

At a young age, I realized the impact the act of giving has not only on the recipient, but also on the giver. Growing up financially disadvantaged placed my family and I in many situations in which we received aid. Despite being financially disadvantaged, I saw my family be givers in many instances. Little did I know that those acts of giving I experienced would inspire me to give back to communities.

After immigrating from Mexico to South Los Angeles, with no education nor the ability to speak English, my parents entered the highest paying field their qualifications allowed: manual labor. Despite working forty-hour work weeks, my parents struggled to make ends meet. My parents would look for any resources available in order to provide my siblings and I with everything we needed. One of the resources my parents would utilize during difficult times was a program funded by businesses around the community that provided low income families with aid, such as gifts and food during holidays. During Christmases in which my parents could not afford gifts, I remember waking up Christmas mornings to a tree full of presents to open. On Thanksgivings in which my parents were not able to purchase a turkey, I remember sitting at the kitchen table with my whole family saying grace for the turkey, stuffing, and pie we were going to eat. Due to the businesses around the community that funded programs to help aid low-income families like mine, I was able to have good experiences during some difficult times.

Although my parents struggled financially, the act of giving was something they practiced very well. As a kid, my mother and I would take the public bus downtown to run errands on the weekends. Despite being tight on money, my mother would not fail to give a homeless person downtown every week a ten-dollar bill and a plate of whatever leftover food we had at home. My mother would always tell me, “en dando, ganamos” (in giving, we gain),

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whenever she gave money or food to the homeless. I fully understood the meaning behind the saying when my mother required me to go up to a homeless person and give him money and food. I will never forget the feeling I felt when I saw the homeless man's face light up and the immense amount of gratitude he expressed. I may not have changed the world that moment, but I did change that person's world that day.

My family and I have been fortunate to have received aid during difficult times and have been fortunate to be in a position to give back. As I embark on my legal aspirations to become an attorney and create a national business law firm, I will use my legal education to make an impact in the legal community and in low income communities.

The legal profession remains one of the least diverse professions, and I will make a difference within that community by diversifying it. First, I will work with a pre-law organization from a local university and high school to provide mentorship, guidance, and assistance to those seeking a law degree. I understand the importance of mentorship because my mentors played a significant part in challenging and helping me self-develop. Furthermore, I will teach students the importance of developing one's mindset and understanding the reasoning behind their thoughts. For example, as a minority, I didn't believe that I belonged nor did I believe that I had the ability to perform well in law school because of the negative, limiting beliefs I attained from the environment I grew up in. It's important for people to recognize the negative self-limiting beliefs they acquired from their environment and replace them with positive beliefs. Replacing the negative beliefs with positive ones will help get rid of the beliefs that minorities don't belong in law school nor are capable of performing well in law school.

Second, I will not only teach leadership, but I will also take on leadership positions within the legal profession in order to diversify it. Teaching leadership is vital to further diversifying the legal profession because it is those students who will go on to be leaders that will further promote diversity in the profession. Moreover, I will lead by example by taking on leadership positions in the legal field to implement and advocate for policies that will promote diversity. Finally, once I establish my own law firm, I will provide scholarship opportunities to minorities in order to encourage them to pursue a law degree by helping lessen the cost.

When it comes to low income communities, I will make a difference within those communities by practicing business law and creating a national business law firm. Practicing business law will allow me to help individuals create, and maintain the visions they possess of their organizations, business, non-profit, corporation, company, institutions, charity, etc. Similar to how my family benefited from programs funded by businesses, the organizations that I will help create, maintain, and progress will allow communities to benefit from the organizations' missions and philanthropic measures. Creating a national business law firm will allow me to help more individuals create, maintain, and progress their organization on a larger scale, thus impacting communities on a larger, national scale.

Moreover, the business law firm will allow me to create and fund a foundation to help low income children achieve their goals and dreams by providing scholarships, mentorship, activities, a positive, supportive, and growth focused environment, and educating kids on making a difference. Coming from a low-income environment, I know from firsthand experience that the environment inflicts self-limiting beliefs on kids, and discourages them from dreaming and pursuing dreams. The creation of this foundation will help kids from low income environments

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to break away from self-limiting beliefs, find their gifts and talents, dream big, and more importantly, to achieve those dreams.