

Being a lawyer has always been my dream. From a very young age, I have always been confident that practicing law would be my career. With each day, I am closer to making that dream become a reality. My goal is to earn a law degree to become a Criminal Prosecuting Attorney.

I am a first-generation college graduate and a future first-generation law student. This fall, I will attend the University of Arkansas School of Law. Throughout college, I have prevailed by maintaining a high GPA, graduating Magna Cum Laude with Academic Honors, working multiple jobs, gaining legal experience through internships, and excelling in organizations on campus.

At Arkansas Tech University, I studied Criminal Justice with a minor in Pre-Law and Communications. I believe the courses taken and skills learned in obtaining my degree has equipped me to become an ideal law school student and eventually a competent attorney. These courses required the ability to articulate intelligent thoughts about relevant literature. On exams, using critical thinking, time management, and decision making to answer essay questions formally and precisely have helped me gain important skills needed to excel throughout my legal career. Within two courses specifically, Criminal Procedure and Judicial Process, exams consisted of analyzing court cases, acting as the judge, reaching a decision based on the facts from that case, and supporting that decision with precedent setting. These classes intensified my inspiration to strive after a law degree.

I was the President of the Pre-Law Society at Arkansas Tech. I was elected during my sophomore year and remained in the leadership position until graduation. This important responsibility required strong leadership and teamwork skills. From organizing meetings,

viewing different law schools, networking with different legal professionals, and recruiting new students, this responsibility requires extensive planning, organization, and efficiency. With attendance over 10,000 a year, I was honored to be thought of as the most qualified by my peers.

While in college, I gained legal experience through two internships. Working at Helton Law Firm alongside attorneys, I observed adoption cases and witnessed the process of traffic offenses. Watching families become complete with their new additions really illustrated the good in our legal system. I also had the opportunity to work at the Pope County Prosecutor's Office. I filed paperwork, studied past court cases, spoke with different legal personnel, and watched trial cases. By the end of my internship, I was mesmerized by criminal prosecution. Within both opportunities, I was able to catch a glimpse of a day as a practicing attorney and the experience not only enhanced my desire to practice law but bolstered my decision to attend law school.

Growing up, my mother raised myself and my two siblings alone. Because of my living environment, being raised by a single parent, and being the oldest of three, I was forced to become independent and responsible. I come from a lower economic status, therefore, I worked multiple jobs my entire college experience. For a significant portion, I worked at Arkansas Tech University as a student worker and at Friendship Community Care, where I assisted disabled clients with cooking, cleaning, and any other way needed. Through that job aiding clients, I learned problem-solving attributes in response to ill-behaviors of the consumers and the importance of accurate documentation by writing detailed explanations of daily

activities. These experiences demonstrate my exemplary work ethic that I believe will serve me well as I chase my dreams.

My interest in law was influenced by a personal and tragic loss; in 2015, my father was shot and killed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His case is still open, and the perpetrator was never apprehended. I have always had an interest in the law, but this tragedy is when my desire to go into criminal law and help other victims began. After this hardship, I experienced a personal abusive relationship. For five years, I was in a physically abusive relationship, and last fall, I filed an order of protection. It took five months for that person to be served. This experience left me feeling defeated and opened my eyes to how long a case may take, despite the urgency. Because I have been on the side of victims, I now understand the importance of having genuine people in criminal law. I plan to pursue a legal career in criminal law to give victims the justice I never received.

Diversity and positively impacting my community is imperative to me. Throughout generations, I will be the first in my family to earn a graduate degree. This is not uncommon in the African American community. Less than 5% of African Americans are attorneys; The legal profession has seen this statistic average for decades.

I am personally familiar with minorities who live in low-income neighborhoods and believe that careers and success are not within reach. My goal is to pave the way for future generations to come.

Law school is the next step in pursuing my dreams. The lessons I have learned from my degree, work experience, and life alterations are my assets that I will continue to use as a guide

within my legal career. I am determined to chase my dreams and contribute to my community through justice.