

## Personal Statement

For as long as I can remember I was always asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. I never had an answer, and I didn't have an answer for anyone for a long time. I couldn't imagine myself past 18 years old. I struggled for those years figuring out my path and what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing. I eventually graduated high school and obtained my two-year degree still feeling lost, so I decided to take a year off school. I worked part time jobs in high school as most teenagers do to gain some work experience. The August after I graduated high school, I was given a part time job opportunity at my local Public Defender's Office. I was excited to steer away from fast food and retail work. They had me start out working in the file room and uploading documentation for the office. About four months later they promoted me to secretary to answer phone calls. I started working with some attorneys and was able to see what they do daily. I formed amazing working relationships with a few attorneys and got exposed to what being a lawyer is all about and how they are constantly fighting for justice. This ultimately inspired me to go back to school and get my four-year degree with plans of attending law school. I had never considered being a lawyer. The career was suggested to me many times, but I didn't know much about what it entails, and it seemed intimidating; I didn't like the idea of speaking in a courtroom either. While I have only been exposed to the criminal law process, through this journey I discovered there is an abundance of areas of law to choose from to study, even ones where there is little to no appearances needed in a courtroom. So, at 19 years old I finally and confidently said that I wanted to be a lawyer.