

Law Personal Statement

Seven months ago, I was sitting on the floor of my parents' basement surrounded by the prototypes I created. The chimes of the grandfather clock adjacent to me bellowed. It was 2:00 a.m. and I was working feverishly on my second batch of prototypes. The deadline for the new testers was quickly approaching and the design flaws of the previous testers needed to be corrected. The defective models served dual purposes: a grim reminder of the ever-present possibility of failure and the determination to succeed.

One month earlier, I had attended my umpteenth pool party and noticed a pattern. Girls would wear their bathing suits, put their feet in the water, but refuse to go into the pool. I took a survey and the majority of them knew how to swim but did not want to get in the pool. Based on my conversations with the attendees, I found that the main motivation for not swimming was to protect their hair. The girls either did not want to risk their hair experiencing the damaging effects of chlorine or they did not want to ruin their recent blowouts or presses. A few days later, my idea to create swim caps with integrated wigs was born.

With the growing demand for hair extensions like wigs, weaves, and clip-ins, I figured my product would help me carve a niche within the market. With the complexities and challenges of starting a company, I enlisted the help of two friends: one with a strong business background and the other with a legal background. After non-disclosure agreements were signed, and titles and percentages of the company were allotted, we were in business. My business partners and I created an LLC, developed a business plan, and conducted industry and competitor analyses. Our next step was to create a presentation to pitch to potential investors.

My partner used her connections to pitch the idea to angel investors. The group was excited about the concept and set a deadline to see the product. With the financial incentives and confidence we gained working on this project, my business partners and I were working at full capacity. We sketched designs, conducted tests on the first set of prototypes, and based on the results we found ways to improve our product. Despite the progress we made, we were faced with a new dilemma: patenting the idea. We conducted a patent search and found a patent that covered all aspects of our design, which placed a heavy burden on our design team. The investors were concerned about the possibility of an infringement lawsuit related to the unauthorized reproduction of the product. We needed more funds to find an innovative way to create the product. With the expansion of our design team, we are currently researching and testing new ways to integrate the various pieces of our wigs. Despite the new challenge of sidestepping our competitor's patented intellectual property, the experience of creating a start-up is unparalleled. It was satisfying starting a company, convincing investors to fund the project, and creating a product.

I am interested in serving as general counsel for a firm focused on corporate transactions and governance regulations. My experience starting my own company will provide a strong foundation to tackle the issues faced by a general counsel. I am drawn to the challenges I will find at the intersection of intellectual property, product liability, and corporate law. Georgetown University Law Center (GULC) has all of these attributes. GULC offers of 50 courses and seminars in corporate law and securities that tackle issues such as business planning, corporate governance, accounting, venture capital and entrepreneurial transactions, mergers, and acquisitions. My background in startups will bring a unique perspective to the GULC classroom. By pursuing a law degree, I intend to enter a profession that aligns with the interests and aptitudes I have discovered and developed through real work experience.

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