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Law Admission Essay

When I first learned about the Eldest Child Syndrome, I was startled; many of the characteristics alleged to be possessed by the first child were, in fact, my personal features.

I grew up as the eldest of three children. Whenever my parents were away, I was the 'guardian,' even though our age difference was no more than five years. This home environment influenced my inclination to help others. In middle school, a girl named Susan was assigned to my homeroom (where she would write me personal letters.) She was the only student in the entire school with a disability and was constantly teased or shunned by her adolescent schoolmates. I did not want to be portrayed as the boring, uncool class president who harangues others about justice but neglecting the agony Susan faced everyday did not coincide with my personal beliefs. (I had to be the link between Susan and the rest of the school. To this day, I remember Susan's mother calling me at home after graduation to thank me for helping her daughter by being her friend.)

My interest in helping others contributed to my selection of a sociology minor in college. Studying social interactions and the explanations behind them enlightened me to many social problems. As a college student, the most I could do to alleviate the troubles in our society was to be involved in various volunteer projects, traveling from the hospitals in Korea to a school in Mongolia.

I returned to Korea five years ago and have been volunteering at the 'Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea,' located in Seoul, since then. There, I have seen for myself the world of inequality and injustice. People who had difficulty in expressing themselves were constantly abused in our society and only a minor portion of those issues were made public. The incident of 'slavery on salt farms' was one of the issues that successfully drew public attention. Workers at a salt farm in the southern region of Korea, some of whom were disabled, had been exploited for many years by their employer. The epithet 'slavery' was given to the affair because of (the horrendous circumstances). From legal proceedings to political disputes, the Institute worked its best to rescue the disabled workers. Everything seemed to be going smoothly until we arrived at the blind spot of the legal system. Insufficient statutes regarding the rights of the disabled people resulted in more than half of the rescuees being returned to the salt farms. This was when we turned to the international community for help.

I was assigned to translate the draft for the Deliberation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Korea that was held in Geneva, Switzerland. (As a benefit of such endeavors, subtle changes occurred in the social atmosphere regarding disability rights.) More frequent discussions on the matter were taking place around the nation and there was increased interest in modifying the legal reality.

The experiences accumulated from my extensive volunteer work at the 'Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea' are invaluable in that they enlightened me to the practicality of law and, especially, international law. The international system of checks and balances is not something implausible but rather something XXX Law School.

The days at XXX k were quite far from my expectations. Although XXX is well known for its strength in relations in Eastern Asia and international law, (the absolute supply of related courses and professors was not sufficient for me to truly comprehend the subject). After sincere consultations with the professors, I decided to pursue a legal education in the United States (where the discourses of international law usually pivot around.)

Growing up as the eldest child was not the most exciting experience but it has inured me to work for people in need of help, nationally and internationally. My deep concern for the welfare of others and ample experiences in defending disability rights will not only guide me to become a protector of human rights but will also (strengthen the cohesiveness of the student body at Fordham Law School). (I hope to reenact the relationship I had with Susan and contribute in making the world a better place.)

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