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Law Admission Essay

When I was a kid, people always told my parents that I was very argumentative. Influenced by Hong Kong's legal dramas in the nineties, I dreamed of being a lawyer as a teenager. Unfortunately, growing up in a traditional Chinese family, I didn't have a lot of freedom to choose my career path. My father is an aerospace engineer, and he always wanted me to be an engineer too. Because of this, I chose biomedical engineering as my college major.

Although I did not enjoy my coursework very much, I still did very well at college. I earned good grades and engaged in multiple extracurricular activities. Because of my excellent academic performance, in my senior year, I received a full scholarship and a research assistant position at a PhD program in an American university where I studied electrical engineering.

After spending three years in graduate school, I decided it might be time to pursue what I am really interested in. I withdrew my PhD candidacy and graduated with a master's degree. Later, I finally made my teenage dream come true – I became a law student.

SUGGESTED OPENING

I spent my first year of law school at the University of Minnesota. I was very fortunate to be accepted by such a great law school with a full-ride scholarship. In my 1L summer I worked at an IP law firm in Minneapolis as a law clerk, and I did a lot of patent prosecution work for them. I was good at my work, and I enjoyed working with people at the firm, but sometimes I would ask myself: Is Minneapolis really where I want to spend the rest of my life?

With no for an answer, I decided to transfer. I sent in my application quite late but fortunately still got accepted by Georgetown. The past two semesters at GULC have been the happiest time in my life. I love the professors, my classmates, and everything about DC. Sometimes, when I walk from the subway station to the campus, I greatly appreciate the views of the [Capitol] and feel so happy that I made my decision to transfer.

There was only one negative consequence of my transfer – I missed the EIW bidding deadline. Because of this, I was not able to participate in last year's EIW. Luckily, because of my hard science background, I still got a job at Jones Day as a summer associate.

My summer at Jones Day has gone well so far. I was recruited specifically for patent prosecution work, so most of my assignments are prosecution-related. I am good at my work, but sometimes I feel I am missing something. So once again, I asked myself, is patent prosecution really something I want to do for the rest of my life?

With no for an answer, I started to think about what I really want to do with my life. They say that if you work for a passion, then you don't need to work another day. The ideal situation is to do work that one is passionate about and that one is also good at (most times they overlap). I am interested in business and economics. I remember that during my 1L year, I went to an interview with a firm's business department. My interviewers looked at my resume and then asked me: Why are you interviewing with us? With your background, you should do patents. Ever since then, I have always been automatically put into the patent category when people see my resume.

Although I often pretend not to be an engineering nerd, the truth is that I like science and technology. [And because of my years of engineering training, those high-tech cases that may drive my law school peers crazy are actually very easy for me to understand.] Also, as a first-generation immigrant, I have a multicultural background and language skills. This will give me great advantages when dealing with clients from different countries and cultures, especially Asians. With the fast development of China, there are more and more Chinese companies doing business in the US and in other countries. This points to the need for people like me, who know not just the American law but the Chinese culture and language. For example, one of the interesting changes that I have observed over the past few years is this: Chinese companies used to be sued a lot by US companies for patent infringement, but now, more and more Chinese companies are coming to the US to bring lawsuits against American companies. I could see myself playing a role in such lawsuits, and I believe I would be a great asset for any firm conducting international business, especially in technology-related fields.

[Frankly, I still haven't figured out what I exactly want to do for my future law practice; some people never find the answer, and they never bother to. But I know it needs to be in areas that I am passionate about and that I am good in. This is the overlapping zone of international business law and IP law.] I might work in international IP litigation or in transactions, or in work related to the international mergers and acquisitions of high-tech companies. But in either case, I do not expect to spend the rest of my legal career writing patent applications.

I am so glad that GULC is offering this international business and economics LLM program for JD students. It will be especially useful for someone like me, who is interested in business and economics but has not yet had the chance to get systematic training. [I sincerely hope that you will accept me into this joint degree program.] Everyone, as a kid, has a dream about what they want to be. The dream may be pretty vague at first, but as we grow up, the dream becomes more and more clear. I want to have an exciting legal career as an international business law attorney, and I want to be an expert in the high-tech business area. Now, the only brick that is missing from my blueprint is formal international business law training. [I promise you that you will not regret accepting me into your program, which would help me to achieve my dream.]

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