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# Law Personal Statement

I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.

-- Albert Einstein

Throughout my life, the question of 'what is your talent?' has come up time and time again. Whether it is on an application, in an interview, in a conversation, or when getting to know someone, somehow this question always finds a way to surface. For the longest time, it intimidated me. All of my peers quickly answered with "I play the piano and clarinet...I am in ballet and gymnastics...I play football, soccer, and baseball...I can roll my tongue and recite the alphabet backwards." But when it was my turn, I never had an answer—I could not play any instruments, I was not in any sports, and I did not have any other party tricks. The best I could come up with was "I can speak Spanish," but I never really considered that a talent; it was just my copout.

I blamed my lack of a talent on how I was raised. I was born in Cuba and lived there until I was six. My father left Cuba in 1994 during Guantanamo Bay. He spent a year in Guantanamo, and in 1995, finally made it to Miami. Shortly after that, in 1997, my mother applied for 'El Bombo'—which, to the best of my understanding, was a Cuban lottery that allowed the 'winner' and his or her child to enter the United States legally. My mother had no hope of winning it. She had not even told anyone in the family she had applied, because she and her co-workers had all filled out the application as a joke. 'El Bombo' was more of a myth -- people talked about it and knew about it, but no one anyone knew ever actually won it. Lo and behold, early in 1998 my mother received the notice saying she had 'won.' We had a 'Golden Ticket' out. Next thing I knew, we were on a one-way flight to Miami.

We arrived late in October, when classes had been in session for about two months. Although I had already started first grade in Cuba, my school principal determined it best to place me in kindergarten again. At the end of the school year, my father moved us to Naples, because he had found a better job and because it would be a better place to settle down and raise a family. By this time, my mother was pregnant with my younger sister, so my parents decided it would be best for her to stay home so they would not need to find a babysitter for me. In turn, this meant the full financial weight of the household was on my dad.

With a new mortgage, a baby on the way, and an old car that needed constant repairs, money was very tight. Piano lessons, ballet, and cheerleading were never an option for me. As I got older, I realized that those things did not matter. I was in no way any less of a person than my peers because I did not participate in the same things they did, and just because my talent was not the same as theirs, it did not mean that I had no talent.

I believe that my talent is my curiosity, my thirst for knowledge and answers, my ability to endure (and even enjoy) challenges, and my desire to help others. I never wanted to be a teacher, princess, or astronaut like most kids. I have known that I want to be a lawyer since second grade. At my fifth grade graduation, each student had to answer 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' Out of approximately 300 students, I was the only one to answer 'lawyer.' I am proud that it was not 'just a phase,' like many people thought. Although I am not yet certain what kind of law I want to pursue—I have struggled and changed ideas several times—I am sure that after my first semester or first year of law school I will be able to decide.

I am not on a mission to save the world; I know that is not possible for one person to do. I am on a mission to help as many people as I can, to impact as many lives as possible, and to leave my footprint on this planet we call home. I know that I can accomplish these things through a career in law. I would be honored to attend (insert law school here) and to be granted the opportunity to fulfill my dream.

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