

Second Grade

Please submit a personal statement of two to three typewritten, double spaced pages that use at least 10pt font. You may choose to write about any topic(s) that you believe would be most helpful to the Admissions Committee as they review your application for admission. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following: your motivation for the study of law and entrance into the legal profession; professional goals you have established for yourself; leadership goals you have established for yourself; particular challenges and obstacles you have confronted and which you believe are relevant to your past academic performance and/or to your potential for success in law school.

In second grade I was deemed by my classmates to be the "judge of fairness" on the playground. This entailed other second graders seeking my advice when a conflict arose, to determine what was right and wrong. One specific incident involved my friends, Jessica and Alex. Alex had hit Jessica with a rubber ball during foursquare at recess. Jessica was very upset she had been hit with a rubber ball by Alex, but Alex said she had hit Jessica by accident. Jessica and Alex approached me to ask my expertise in determining whether this incident happened accidentally or not. I made them stand in the exact locations and at the same angles they had been in when the incident occurred. I then gave Alex the rubber ball to throw, to see the trajectory of the ball hitting Jessica. According to the trajectory of the ball, Alex could not have hit Jessica by accident. I determined that Alex had hit Jessica with the rubber ball intentionally. Jessica was satisfied with the result, and Alex was upset with me for a few days for making the decision I did.

I know this story may sound a little contrived, and in all it honestly looking back it seems a little unbelievable to me as well that my insistence on fairness and justice started at such a young age. I have carried my sense of fairness and justice with me throughout the rest of my elementary days, middle school, high school, and now college. My leadership roles and experiences throughout my life have shown me that making the fair decision does not reap the most benefits for the decision maker. It can be uncomfortable and hard to make the right decision, but in the end I know it is always the right thing to do.

I felt this discomfort as well as the satisfaction that comes with fighting for fairness acutely this past fall when I was the Vice President of Finance for my sorority, Delta Delta Delta. I returned from studying abroad in Scotland to find out that Tri Delta's National House Corporation had raised our expenses for our house by \$23,000 which caused a \$120 increase per member for dues. I thought this increase was grossly unfair and unjustified because it was such a large increase with no reasoning given behind the decision. The increase had caused a burden for a few members, and many were worried about retaining their membership because of the financial difficulties. In August I started to make inquiries, conduct research, and meet with various professionals to try to figure out why and how our National House Corporation could do this to my chapter. After I felt as if I had collected enough data and knowledge I wrote a detailed letter to our alumni about the unjust treatment we were receiving. Our alumni then proceeded to call the National House Corporation to demand answers that I was not given. Throughout the entire process the leadership in my chapter told me repeatedly that I was being too aggressive, pushy, and that I should be nicer to our contacts at our National House Corporation. However, through the countless hours of persistent research, and meetings paid off and our chapter received a \$9,000 decrease for the year. Dues were lowered by \$110 per girl, only \$10 above where they had been previously. From this experience, I learned that if I believe something is unfair, it is appropriate to find a solution and justification.

The situation with Tri Delta might have been the most unfair treatment I have experienced so far. For the most part I have been privileged throughout my life, and afforded a lot of opportunities other people do not get the chance to experience. These opportunities have stemmed mostly from my hard work, but also from my background. I am very grateful to have lived the life I have, but I think that I can also use my good fortune to help other people that have fewer advantages than I. I have had an opportunity to do this by working with local artisans in Bucerías, Mexico during an internship. The artisans were also entrepreneurs, and sold the products they made by hand in the local market. I worked with the López López family on ways

to convey to the consumer the true value of their handmade products. My fellow interns and I helped the artisans to create a pricing structure, and created a banner for their market booth demonstrating the process they go through when making their products. These two tactics helped to show consumers why a high-quality product deserves a fair price.

My experience in Mexico and my classwork have helped me to see the inequity in the world. I took an International Business course at the University of St. Andrews that explored a lot of topics concerned with ethical issues for corporations. One main theme that really stood out to me was that when corporations make unethical decisions the people that are negatively impacted by the decision often do not have a path of recourse. As an attorney I would be particularly interested in social justice issues like these, and would hope to be able to help people learn how they can take legal action to assure that their rights are not violated.

Ultimately I want to understand the law and how to interpret statutes correctly and then apply that knowledge to make fair, legal decisions. I am very interested in studying how lawyers and judges make decisions based on what they think is right and wrong, and then how they tie their decisions in with the law. Whatever side you may be on politically, I think everyone can agree that there are people who feel that they have been treated unfairly, and there will be people in the near future who feel that they are being treated unfairly. I would love to be an attorney that helps to level the playing field for the individuals who feel that they are being or have been treated unfairly.

At the age of seven, making an impartial decision on the playground it was not apparent to me that I wanted to study law. However, throughout my lifetime various learning experiences have shown me that I am passionate about making a positive impact on others, so everyone's playing field is a little more equal. I know that in law school and in my career after, there will be harder decisions to make than the one I made on the playground at the age of seven. I am ready for this kind of challenge, and welcome the opportunity to begin to gain the knowledge and skills I need to be an impactful lawyer.