

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 must have had influenced my inclination towards aiding others. In middle school a girl named Susan was always assigned to my homeroom where she would write me personal letters. Being the only person in the entire school with a disability Susan was constantly made fun of and shunned by the adolescent schoolmates. I did not want to be portrayed as the boring, uncool class president who harangues about justice but neglecting the agony Sarah was facing 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 and being her daughter's friend.

My interest in helping others contributed to the selection of minoring in sociology at 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 volunteer works. From the hospitals in Korea to a school in Mongolia, I participated in various volunteer works.

Ever since I returned to Korea I have been doggedly volunteering at the 'Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea' located in Seoul for approximately five years. I saw for myself the world of inequality and injustice. People who had hardships 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 who had been exploited by the employers for many years were found at a salt farm in the southern region of Korea and some of them were disabled. The epithet 'slavery' was given to the affair because of the horrendous circumstances. From legal proceedings to political disputes, the institution worked its best to rescue the disabled workers. Everything seemed going smoothly until we arrived at the blind spot of the legal systems; Insufficient statutes regarding the rights of the disabled people resulted in more than half of the rescuees to return to the salt farms. And this was when we turned to the international community for help.

I was assigned to translate the draft for the Deliberation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Korea held in Geneva, Switzerland. In the virtue of such endeavors subtle changes occurred in the social atmosphere regarding disability rights. Much more frequent discussions on the matter was taking place around the nation and more interests were being shown to modify the legal reality.

The experiences accumulated from 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 extremely influential to our daily lives. On that note I decided to pursue a career in international law and entered XXX Law School.

The days at XXX 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 from the professors I concluded to receiving 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 the people in need of help, nationally and internationally. My deep concerns for others and ample experiences in defending for disability rights will not only guide myself becoming 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.