

April Franklin

Diversity in the Legal Profession Scholarship Essay

We are placed on earth for a unique purpose and when we discover that purpose, we have the capacity to change the lives of those in our sphere of influence. My purpose is to advocate for the needs of senior adults and family caregivers and I believe that the next right step in the evolution of my purpose is to attend law school and pursue a career as an African-American Elder Law attorney.

According to the American Bar Associations 2020 Profile of the Legal profession, “ Only 5% of all lawyers are African American” when African American’s account for 13.4% of the US Population. These numbers show that the legal profession has a very long way to go in creating an, equitable, inclusive and diverse landscape that is representative of the general public. I am interested in becoming a part of a new generation of attorneys and other legal professionals who are equipped to change these numbers, allowing us to serve as an inspiration for the generations to come.

The motto for the 100 Black Men of America, a service organization whose mission is to positively influence the lives of African-American youth, is “What they see is what They’ll be”. While this is the motto that drives their purpose, it is also the reason why as an African-American woman and an advocate for those within my community, that I am passionate about pursuing a career in law and changing the landscape of the legal profession: literally , “What they See is what they’ll be.” In high school, I was exposed to many professional African American Women who showed me that I could work hard and strive to be successful in my career while serving my community. In addition to that, I was also exposed to positive images within the media of successful African American women like Claire Huxtable who, though fictional in nature, was the epitome of class and intelligence, serving as inspiration to many young African American girls all over the country. She showcased how to gracefully

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juggle a prosperous career in law while remaining dedicated to her family and community. It is because of my exposure to these positive representations that I have the courage to pursue a career in law.

The opportunity to receive this scholarship would aide in my mission of changing the landscape of the legal field by helping to break down some of the financial barriers that many minorities like myself face when pursuing educational opportunities. This would also help me to focus on my studies without having to worry about the financial cost of pursuing my law degree. It would be a great honor to receive this award and I hope to serve as a literal representation of the quote “What they see is What they’ll be”, inspiring young African American girls to see that they too can pursue a career in the field of law as I continue to walk in my purpose.