

JOHN WITT

PERSONAL STATEMENT: A GLIMPSE INTO MY INTENT TO STUDY LAW

WHAT INSPIRED YOUR INTEREST IN LAW AND PURSUING A LEGAL CAREER?

My interest in law began during a period of navigation through the family court system. My daughter had been abandoned by her mother and left in the care of my daughter's maternal grandmother for a period of roughly a year—an act that openly defied our court-sanctioned custody agreement. After I petitioned for modification of custody, I quickly realized that the path forward was certain to be unaffordable if I did not take independent initiative to educate myself about court procedures, rules of evidence, and the Texas Family Code. My delve into these topics uncovered a previously unknown interest in the law, and the struggles I faced as I interacted with the court system as a penniless petitioner inspired me to one day act on behalf of others who might find themselves in situations similar to mine.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL?

I am pursuing law school because I believe the legal field offers the clearest path for me to create meaningful change—particularly for individuals and families navigating difficult circumstances. As a first-generation student with limited exposure to the legal profession, I recognize the value of structured support. My interest in law is driven not by prestige, but by purpose: I want to be a capable and ethical advocate, using my experience and persistence to support those who are too often overlooked by the legal system.

HOW WILL PARTICIPATION IN A LAW PROGRAM HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT?

I dream of one day having the ability to substantially aid people who have historically been disadvantaged as they navigate the family court system. It is easy to succumb to hopelessness when faced with the hardships associated with family law. Emotional turmoil, financial instability, and dramatic uncertainty create a situation in which people are commonly pushed to their limits. My short-term goal—entry into and successful completion of law school—serves this larger vision. Participation in a structured law program will help me prepare for the admissions process, strengthen my understanding of the legal field, and build the academic foundation I need to thrive. I plan to take full advantage of every opportunity offered—from mentorship to networking and skill-building—so that I can approach law school and the legal field beyond with clarity, confidence, and purpose.

HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED ANY SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC OR PERSONAL CHALLENGES ON YOUR PATH TO PURSUING LAW? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE THEM.

My realization that I wanted to pursue law as a career occurred prior to my return to academia. At that time, I had not been in any form of higher education for roughly a decade, having dropped out of junior college with a 1.7 GPA to pursue an enlistment in the U.S. Army. Upon my return to college, I was faced with a couple of unique challenges: I needed to repair my GPA so that it more accurately reflected my capabilities, and I would have to toil my way toward law school while continuing my full-time career and supporting my family. Since I hadn't maintained satisfactory academic progress prior to dropping out, I was not eligible to receive any amount of financial aid. This added a financial component to an already challenging situation. Over a period of four years, I have diligently worked to repair and sustain a respectable GPA while excelling in my career. In that time, I have endured a custody case, purchased a house, and began the process of rebuilding my relationship with my daughter, which was placed under significant strain as we weathered family court.