

1. A hallmark of the Columbia experience is being able to learn and thrive in an equitable and inclusive community with a wide range of perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia's diverse and collaborative community.

Growing up at the intersection of Korean and American cultures, I have been able to develop a unique lens to view the rich complexities of a globalized world. This led me to a deep respect for the subtleties of both Eastern and Western societies and shaped my perspective to be more inclusive and receptive to different worldviews. This path showed me the paramount value of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) in the continual advancement of society, the realization of one's personal growth and potential, and the long-term sustenance of a thriving workplace, community, and world.

I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of embracing diversity throughout my academic and professional experiences in both Korea and the U.S. These experiences have formed my appreciation for multiculturalism and my commitment to ensuring that all communities are heard and respected. As I transitioned from academia to my professional role at MSCI, the potential for DE&I management practices to impact corporate governance and valuation became even more apparent. In advising a Korean firm struggling with employee diversity challenges, I saw the transformative potential of implementing more sophisticated diversity management initiatives. The company's decision to hire a Chief Diversity Officer and to strengthen female representation on its board were just two examples of the change that was unleashed when the companies started listening to different voices.

However, this journey also revealed what change at organizational and societal levels tends to look like: slow and often resistant. In doing so, it underlined the need to see transformation through the prism of the rule of law. The understanding that legal frameworks matter to the change that unfolds in society was an intellectually liberating moment, as it illustrated the power of legal knowledge to anchor consensus, drive alignment, and further human advancement.

Inspired by this realization and with the goal of synergizing my love for social change with a robust legal foundation, I am certain that the legal education and inclusive community of Columbia University will provide me with the tools to navigate and influence the legal landscapes that define our societies. My choice to pursue a legal career stems from a place where my unique background and personal experiences can be leveraged for the greater good. It reflects a commitment to the construction of a society in which diversity is embraced, equity is realized, and progress is steered by collective effort. I start this new chapter inspired by the lessons of my bicultural upbringing: the values of humility, openness, and the inevitability of change.

The decision to pursue a career in law is not simply a professional aspiration; it is a profound commitment to employ my unique lens to effectuate positive change. I am ready to begin studying law, confident that I will continue to grow as a person and make an indelible impact on society at large.