

Calli Farrell
McClellan County Bar Association Scholarship Essay

My first taste of the legal profession was in a mock trial elective in sixth grade. At the end of the course, we put on a full mock trial in front of our principal. I cross-examined an eighth grade boy. I held his testimony to the provided deposition; he got frustrated and cried. My teacher for the course encouraged me to look into being a lawyer and ended up being my mock trial competition coach for eighth through twelfth grade. With a background in acting for both the theater and television, I loved the performance rush of being in a courtroom. Beyond mock trial in high school, I continued to learn more about law through my internships and externship with the Louisiana State Bar Association. During my final internship, I was allowed to briefly shadow at the Innocence Project of New Orleans. I was overwhelmed emotionally by their dedicated staff and by meeting a man that was wrongly convicted and imprisoned in Angola for 27 years. The courtroom no longer felt like a place of quick thinking and performance. The gravity of people's lives gave me pause. I still enjoyed the critical thinking and analysis of being a lawyer, and I decided to see if I would like business law. In undergrad, I chose to study finance. I fell in love with finance and studying how to solve business problems. I find that econ is the theory of business, accounting is the language of business, and finance is the practice of business. My dream of becoming a lawyer was still viable and could be focused around facilitating business.

The opportunity to go to law school has been more fulfilling than I imagined in high school and undergrad. Academically, I have been able to take multiple business law courses and compete for our Negotiation Board. I serve on several organizations that keep me active in the law school community and our campus community. My time at the Transactional Clinic not only honed practical legal skills but gave me the rewarding opportunity to connect with and aid small business owners in cultivating and registering their LLCs and non-profits. Professionally, I was able to develop in legal fields beyond corporate law. My judicial internship with State Supreme Court Justice Dawn Beam helped me grow in my intrapersonal skills when working with different legal, legislative, and community stakeholders as well as more insight into the demanding work done by parent representatives and guardian ad litem. From a corporate law perspective, I am beyond grateful for the internship opportunity State Farm afforded me. The ability to work in house and actually feel comfortable and excited to complete the work has given me such joy and clarity. I am excited to continue to work for State Farm in house beyond graduation. Not only will I have the opportunity to build a career solving problems and facilitating business, but I get to do it for a company that encourages volunteer work in general and pro bono. I get to still have opportunities to make a real difference in my community without feeling emotionally overwhelmed by my entire workload consisting of people's personal lives at stake. I wish I was stronger to commit my entire career to it, but I know I get too fixated and emotionally invested. I feel blessed to build a career at a company that lets me have a balance.