

Sellmyer, Mary

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Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Sellmyer, Mary
Subject: New Form Entry: 20 scholarship ap

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You've just received a new submission to your 20 scholarship ap.

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Submitted Information:

Name

Abigail Kauerauf

Birth Date

December 27, 1996

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Law School

University of Illinois College of Law

Law School Address

504 E Pennsylvania Ave
Champaign, IL United States 61820

Email

ae8@illinois.edu

Select One.Second Year or Equivalent

1

[Through Spring 2020]

2.37 (from Fall 2019 only; Spring 2020 was pass/fail)

Do you intend to practice law in McLean County?

Yes

Explain your ties to McLean County and/or why you hope to practice law in McLean County

As a future public interest attorney, I take the tenets I learned from my time volunteering in Bloomington-Normal to heart, and it would be an honor to return the many favors this community has given to me as a practicing attorney in McLean County.

My longstanding familial ties to McLean County drew me to Bloomington-Normal originally. My mother's grandmother attended Illinois Wesleyan University, as did my father and older brother. Additionally, my father's parents met at Illinois State University while they were both students. When I began to attend Illinois Wesleyan in the fall of 2015, then, I felt like I already knew McLean County well, for I was raised listening to my family tell stories of their time learning and growing as young people here.

During my time at Illinois Wesleyan, however, I was determined to construct ties that I had helped bind myself, without the assistance of my family. I quickly became involved in the surrounding community. My freshman year, I helped direct parking for Illinois Symphony Orchestra guests on performance nights. I also joined Circle K my first year and began to volunteer with members of the local Kiwanis club at events like the Pancake Days, which serve thousands of community members each year. As Circle K treasurer, I helped lead blood drives. We also organized a trivia night benefiting Prairie State Legal Services, my first encounter with Prairie State.

Additionally, as the president of the feminist club on campus, I created annual fundraisers benefitting Mid-Central Community Action and Neville House, and I brought employees from the Neville House to speak to my club.

Still, by far the most meaningful college experience for me was when I became involved with the Action Research Center (ARC), which seeks to connect students with the surrounding area, and to utilize students' unique skillsets to help address community needs. As someone who has always been service-oriented, I jumped at the opportunity to take classes and volunteer with local nonprofits.

Through ARC, I learned of the West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP) and spent the rest of my college tenure working with the organization. The WBRP represents the type of organization I hope to utilize my law degree to lead one day – one that listens

to the needs of the community and responds in kind. Over the next two years, I wrote grants for the WBRP, founded and managed a community garden, and facilitated a program with the Farmers' Market to bring fresh produce to the West Side.

When I began law school in the fall of 2019 after graduating from Wesleyan, I was uncertain what to expect, but I knew what kind of law I wanted to practice, and where.

This past summer, I was lucky enough to intern at Prairie State Legal Services. At Prairie State, I saw clearly how legal aid represents a cross-section of community service and my newfound (and still growing) legal knowledge, and the result was, for me, a very fulfilling summer. I appreciated especially how the attorneys at Prairie State worked to address clients needs from a holistic perspective by connecting clients with resources throughout the area.

It is my hope that I may one day serve clients as their attorney in McLean County. I cannot think of a better place to serve my community than the county where I solidified my passion for volunteerism and serving the public interest.

Community Service/Extra-Curricular Activities

Sangamon County

Volunteering through service trip (2015, First United Methodist Church, Springfield)

Volunteering with the Key Club (2015, Glenwood High School, Chatham)

Tutor, Senior Mentor Program (2015, Glenwood High School, Chatham)

McLean County

Volunteering with Circle K (2015-2018, IWU, Bloomington)

Teacher's Assistant with the Language School for Kids (2016, IWU, Bloomington)

Volunteering with WBRP (2016-2019, WBRP, Bloomington)

Student representative, Sexual Assault Educational Task Force (2018, IWU, Bloomington)

Organized fundraisers to Neville House and MCCA (2018-2019, IWU, Bloomington)

Grant writing for WBRP (2018-2019, WBRP, Bloomington)

Champaign County

Volunteering at Wesley Food Pantry (2019-2020, Wesley United Methodist Church, Champaign)

Volunteering at Champaign (and Vermillion) County sealing & expungement summits (2019-2020, Champaign)

Fundraising chair for the Public Interest Law Foundation (2019-2020, UIUC, Champaign)

Volunteering through the UIUC Community Engaged Scholar Program (2020, UIUC, Champaign-Urbana)

Alumni liaison for the Public Interest Law Foundation (2020-2021, UIUC, Champaign)

Reference Name:

Kelly Ehrenreich

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309-433-0067

Reference Address

201 W. Olive St.

Bloomington, IL USA 61701

Submitted Files

Please attach a current copy of your resume.

resume_updated_10-19-2020.pdf

Current Transcript

official_transcript_oct_2020.pdf

Upload Essay

mcba_scholarship_essay_due_10-31.docx