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As an aspiring second career lawyer, my drive to get legal education is to help small businesses and individuals. I'm genuinely passionate about helping others. As a CPA, I get a lot of legal questions intermingled with accounting questions. With no law degree, I'm at a disadvantage since I'm not legally eligible to provide legal advice. I got to know these individuals on a more personal level and knew that I could make a difference in their lives if I can offer both legal and accounting advice.

The legal and accounting fields have many areas of overlap, and becoming dually-qualified gives me far greater insight and perspective than an average lawyer or accountant. Everything from tax consequences to estate planning involves complex legal and financial principles that interlink. Becoming a dually-qualified Attorney-CPA gives me a more well-rounded understanding of how these often abstract concepts work.

Attorneys and CPAs are taught to view problems from unique perspectives as they pursue their education, and a dually-licensed professional is able to combine those distinct analytical approaches to ensure they see every angle. This helps me to give my clients better legal or financial advice due to my ability to avoid blind spots in problem-solving methodology.

Not only does obtaining a law degree help CPAs in their field of practice by giving them a greater understanding of the legal principles that influence accounting, but it also opens the door on new career opportunities and helps the dually-licensed professional provide well-rounded advice.

The decision to go to law school is, in itself, not a career choice for me. Instead, the law is a field of study that offers me a wide range of career options, each requiring different skills but also possessing common characteristics. The possibilities are endless in terms of practice areas and work environments. Another reason I want to become a lawyer is that I discovered that my strengths were in analyzing problems and advising others. Being a lawyer can require a wide range of skills and unexpected challenges.

Furthermore, I love the creativity involved with handling virtually every case or matter. Law is a thinking profession, not just a doing job. A lot of legal work involves identifying issues, solving problems and creativity. Many times, people come with a fact pattern, and a lawyer has to ferret out the legal issues, come up with ways to address them and execute the plan. I love puzzles, and I am confident that the law practice will provide me with an endless supply.

Like most of the law students, I'm inspired by the thought of bringing real change and impact to my communities, my fields of study, and my current and future clients. Additionally, the lawyer degree provides me with an avenue to do a lot to help people through community-based legal aid organizations or pro-bono practices.

Hundreds of thousands of small business owners, many of whom already operate on very narrow margins, are struggling with questions about how their businesses will survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only do these businesses provide necessary services in communities all over the country; they provide employment, job training, and other benefits. Their survival is essential to strong neighborhoods. To support these small businesses, I plan to provide guidance regarding available federal, state, and local programs that may offer grants and/or loans; and Pro bono consultations to help small business owners dealing with legal issues resulting from diminished revenues or closures due to COVID-19.