

In 2013, I began my undergraduate career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I majored in Speech-Pathology. As a freshman, I wanted to be a Speech Pathologist because I loved working with children, and I wanted to help give a voice to the voiceless. Throughout my undergraduate career, I volunteered as a literacy tutor at low-income schools in my college town and I spent my academic breaks working for the Young Wonders Program at the YWCA McLean County. Through these experiences, my interests shifted from providing services to marginalized individuals, to examining the factors that hinder access to services. I decided that a career as an attorney would allow me to examine and solve these issues on a more systemic level.

I am planning on working in Public Interest Law. My goal is to be an advocate for youth. I am taking the opportunity to use clerkships and pro bono work to explore the best way for me to reach this goal. My 1L summer, I clerked with the Cook County Office of the Public Guardian, where I had the opportunity to work on child abuse and neglect cases. I also conducted research that was key to the judge ruling for placement in favor of our client. I spent my 1L spring break volunteering with children who were detained at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. This experience allowed me to learn more about juvenile justice issues and the various agencies and organizations that work in conjunction to provide services for children involved in the criminal justice system. Each of these experiences has given me a chance to explore issues that are unique to children who are interacting with the legal system.

My law school education is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the ways in which the legal system operates and the impact it has on the lives of marginalized individual. My law school education has given me the opportunity to develop my advocacy skills through clinical experiences and community-based outreach presentations. Additionally, I have used my law school education to initiate positive interactions with students in Chicago Public Schools through “Know Your Rights Lessons.” These lessons not only allow me to introduce students to the Constitution, but they also allow me to be a representation of the diversity that exists within law school and the legal community.

I will contribute to my community and to society, by being a strong advocate to those who need it the most. I will do this by pursuing a career in Public Interest Law and helping those who might not otherwise have access to legal representation. I will also continue to promote and advocate for diversity and inclusion within the legal community through education and pro bono work. As a second-year law student, my purpose and aspirations are the same as they have always been—to help give a voice to voiceless—the vehicle by which I am doing so just looks a little different now.