

My law school education is important to me because it means I will be able to have a major, lasting impact on those who I come into contact with because of my law degree. Whether the reason I am meeting the client is good or bad, I hope that I will be able to change their life for the better. In my mind, when a person has to meet with a lawyer, it is probably because they are at a very difficult point in their life or going through something life changing. The community comes to a lawyer for a number of reasons, whether it be to create a will, get a divorce or file a lawsuit. I hope that regardless of the area I decide to go into, I can comfort my clients and make their experience the best that it can be. I know that many probably do not look forward to going to a lawyer's office for whatever reason, however, I hope that I will be able to make that burden feel a little less difficult.

Additionally, I have a chance to make a change in the community I know many others will never have the opportunity, or the means to do so. Law school is extremely time consuming, expensive and an additional three years of school which some people may not be able to complete. I have been very blessed growing up and having a family that supports me and I know many are not as fortunate as me in that regard. I have been able to focus on my education, and not have to worry about making money to survive. Because of this, I want to be able to help those in need and those who may not have the same opportunities as I do. To me, being able to serve the community is a very important aspect and a responsibility I feel the need to complete.

Having grown up in McLean County and spending a lot of time in the Bloomington/Normal area, I knew that bad things happen in our community but I never realized the extent of it. With that being said, after working at the State's Attorney's office over the summer, I was very shocked to learn more about the bad things that happen in the community and what goes on behind the scenes. I was amazed at the number of cases that make their way

through the State's Attorney's office and the number of repeat offenders. I hope that I will be able to someday help prosecute those who have broken the law and to be an advocate for those who were harmed. In addition to being an advocate for those harmed, I also hope to help those who are being prosecuted as well.

After graduation and a few years of working I also want to be able to have a lasting impact on college students as well. I want to be able to go to local colleges and talk about my experiences in undergrad and my time spent in law school. In addition to creating a relationship with college students, I also want to fund a scholarship of my own to help encourage students to pursue their legal education. I know that going to school and taking out loans can be very overwhelming, so I hope to make it more affordable for those who want to continue their education.