

Scholarship Essay Samples

Jacobson Leadership Program in Law & Business

One of my favorite projects at [REDACTED] LLP required me to produce a research memorandum concerning the regulation of cryptocurrencies. A Partner requested my assistance with investigating the trading industry's response to recent litigation by the United States government, and the impact of stricter legal controls on profit projections. Through my research, I discovered that the potential client had an interest in expanding internationally as a result of the domestic regulatory climate, and would likely benefit from legal advice addressing the relevant international laws governing digital currency trading. My work at [REDACTED] LLP has exposed me to how business considerations inform legal strategies in fast-developing industries through my involvement in casework at the intersection of business and law.

My interest in the Jacobson Leadership Program in Law and Business at NYU Law is motivated by my desire to utilize my legal education to encourage development in the music industry. Successful commercial expansion requires a careful assessment of the potential risks of growth in different market sectors, including consideration of the regulatory landscape and possible liabilities. In particular, it is crucial for streaming services and other companies involved in the digital music space to understand the legal components of music licensing and acquisition in order to avoid litigation from artists and to promote the continued evolution of the global music library. I will need to make decisions that have both legal and business impact in order to contribute effectively to this growth. The preference for dual expertise in business and law is made clear by the efforts of companies like Spotify and Pandora to recruit legal counsel with business acumen to support their rapidly expanding platforms.

If selected as a Jacobson Scholar, I will challenge myself to develop the skills necessary to effectively structure contracts that will assist in the production and distribution of musical content. Courses in business transactions and deal implementation will provide me with a

thorough introduction to the essential aspects of the contract drafting and negotiation process.

The Business Law Transactions Clinic is a unique opportunity for law students to advise companies on a variety of issues involved in corporate governance and management, an experience that would allow me to sharpen my professional skills and expertise. I will take advantage of the Law and Business Mentor network to assist me in securing summer positions at music labels and other entertainment agencies to supplement my classroom learning. I believe I possess the motivation and industry experience necessary to succeed in my desired career, and the Jacobson Program will ensure I receive the most rigorous educational training available in law school curricula.

I believe that my life's calling is to use the law to promote social justice and to use my future law degree to benefit marginalized communities. When I think about the needs of the Latinx community in particular, I think of my own family and loved ones and the struggles they have faced.

To this day, I credit my parents with igniting my dedication to social justice. They taught me to show compassion to others in our community, especially other immigrants. They both came to the U.S. from Guatemala and wanted me to understand the unfair reality of undocumented immigrants. They made sure I recognized how my own family members lived their lives in fear and in the shadows. While my immediate family never had to fear deportation, we were always ready to help those that did. This is where my interest in helping the Latinx community started to develop.

My interest in serving the Latinx community, however, goes beyond the plight of immigrants. While I grew up in a family supportive of immigrants' rights, they gave little recognition to other marginalized groups. After coming to terms with my own queer identity, I knew I could no longer support this single-tracked approach to social justice; I had to take into account the wide-ranging diversity of the Latinx community and issues that affect other communities. In college, I became a peer educator for the campus LGBT Center and explored the intersections of privilege, race, and queerness. I went on to intern for ██████████, an organization that protects LGBTQ and HIV-positive asylum seekers. I personally met asylum seekers who had fled persecution, which inspired me to write my senior thesis on U.S. asylum policies, with a focus on unaccompanied minors and LGBTQ refugees. I always knew that I wanted my thesis to explore immigration law, but I also wanted to make sure I centered the experiences of the most vulnerable populations.

As a paralegal for ██████████, I have further witnessed how injustices affect many diverse communities, including the Latinx community. When states pass laws restricting access to reproductive healthcare, the communities that suffer the most are those already on the margins, such as women of color and low-income families. Working at ██████████ has shown me that an issue

like reproductive healthcare doesn't just have to be a women's issue, but it is also a Latinx issue. This job has shown me the real world importance of intersectionality as a lens for social justice.

In college, I focused my activist and academic interests on immigrants and the LGBTQ community, and now I am at an organization that works to increase healthcare access for marginalized communities, including Latinx folks. I plan to bring these experiences with me to the classroom as a student, and I hope to pursue a career where I can focus on using the law as a tool to uplift the Latinx community, especially queer and trans folks, immigrants, and low-income families.

Rook-Tilden-Kern Supplemental Essay

My desire to work in public interest law, specifically regarding minority rights, has its roots in my very first internship. Because I had grown up seeing the value a second language had brought to my own family, I applied to work with the [REDACTED], an organization that helps provide foreign language education to underserved schools in New York City. As I spent the semester working in schools in different parts of the city, I found myself marveling at the amazing diversity between neighborhoods and realized how easily I could take advantage of the richness around me to improve my own language ability.

At that time, I was focusing on Turkish, and my expanding linguistic interest in Turkey translated into a burgeoning interest in the Middle East. Beginning with learning about major issues like the Israel-Palestine Conflict and increasingly the Syrian Civil War, it was impossible not to read accounts of refugees seeking safety in other countries and the social and institutional barriers to success that they faced. Yet it wasn't until I met a Syrian man around my age while studying in Istanbul that these issues became somehow more concrete. Listening to his thoughts on his and others' situations and later following his journey to Germany online, I began to explore state policies on integration and their impact on asylum-seeking and migration processes.

After I completed my bachelor's, I was still involved with the study of [REDACTED], and having written my thesis on the country, it was a natural next step to return to [REDACTED] again, this time with a new perspective as a master's student in the Social Sciences, with the added bonus of participating in a program based in universities in both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] two countries closely linked to Syrian migration. As I completed my coursework, I began to have a wider appreciation for the variety of social and political factors that are put under the microscope of the social scientist, and eventually began to center my academic focus on the impacts of political movements, like nationalism and populism, on the rights of minority groups, specifically within the context of linguistic and cultural expression.

Having chosen a direction for my studies, I was faced with a dilemma: should I take a more academic path within this specialization, or should I try to find even more tangible ways of solving the problems I had been studying? Ultimately, after reading about the challenges that come with navigating a foreign legal system, making new friendships with individuals who had gone through the asylum process, and hearing accounts of the necessity of lawyers as an intermediary for an individual in the face of a potentially hostile state, I opted to pursue law with the explicit intent of trying to help those who are often most in need.

By completing my legal education at NYU, I am confident that I will be set up for success based on the quality of the academics and the presence of private and governmental organizations working with various minority groups throughout the city. However, I also believe that the professional support I would receive as a Root-Tilden-Kern scholar, both in terms of career guidance as well as an extensive alumni network, will be particularly invaluable as I begin to search for the ways that I can best make an impact, whether that be working at the city level, with groups like the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, or at an international level, with the United Nations or the International Criminal Court. As I finish my master's coursework this semester, I often come across descriptions of various legal cases regarding language education or the asylum system, and as I have moved through the law school application process, the image of myself taking part in those battles becomes clearer, and I am sure that the Root-Tilden-Kern program will help bring that image into focus.