

Society can sometimes be unrelenting, and the poor and innocent are often the victims. According to the Vera Institute of Justice, there were 10.5 million arrests made last year in the United States, an arrest occurring every 3 seconds. Of this, up to 10% of people in prison are actually innocent. While these statistics are significant, because they impact families and communities, the real perpetrators are often free to roam. Evidently, the legal system needs more lawyers that can accurately and passionately represent their clients. This is why my dream job is to become a criminal defense attorney.

As a criminal defense attorney I would be able to represent those who have been accused, especially, the poor and the disadvantaged. It is special to me because I can make a difference in the lives of the oppressed, which gives me a sense of accomplishment for being able to help the less fortunate. I can stand out from the crowd because I have a passion to defend others, and with my experience in debating and public speaking, I am proficient in elaborating my point.

As an attorney, I will need to have skills and qualifications to adequately present my clients. These include: integrity, good communication skills, exceptional research and analytical skills, criminal law experience, confidentiality, and a strong command of the English language. As of now, I possess most of these skills. However, in the future, I will pursue a bachelor's degree, as well as completing three years of law school. Eventually, I will complete and pass my state's bar exam. This academic journey will take approximately 7 years. These skills will allow me to fight for my clients and grant them the justice they deserve. Being in the Virtual Enterprise (VE) program has boosted my confidence because it provided an opportunity to speak

to an unfamiliar audience and sell a product. Much like criminal defense, I will have to sell my case to the jury and the judge. The VE exposure further fueled my passion for this career.

As an attorney, I will be able to obtain numerous personal and professional benefits. These include being able to serve my community, providing a low cost or free service that would set many free, including the innocent. Furthermore, as a first generation American, serving an immigrant community, Queens, New York, would be beneficial since my clients, who are usually underrepresented, will feel more comfortable relating to one that understands them. This career will also provide an intellectual challenge because there is always the need to research, solve problems and be an innovative thinker, thereby making it an excellent career choice.

As articulated in the preceding discussion, life as a criminal defense attorney is an interesting endeavor. It is well suited for my work ethic, and it provides many opportunities. I believe that practicing law in the future will be a decision that I will not regret since it will not only benefit me personally, but my community as a whole.

