Joe Wyckoff Personal Statement LSAC: L34060858

Since I was young, I never settled for anything less than fairness, and the logical truth. This drove my parents mad as they could not trick me, or shrug off an annoying line of questioning with dismissive counterpoints. For example, if I were asked to clean my room, I would refuse until they presented me with a valid reason as to why cleaning my room was a beneficial use of my time. This love of debate, and argumentative discourse, resulted in teachers and parents joking to that I would be a lawyer one day and I grew up with this idea. When approaching graduation from Zionsville Community High School, it came time to apply for colleges and I was excited to begin my studies towards becoming a lawyer. However, after doing some research I found two key problems with my immediate goals. First, was that it is ubiquitously recommended that one attends an undergraduate institution prior to working towards a law degree. The second issue was the dismal job market for those studying law. It seemed to me that the best way to tackle these problems was to attend Purdue University and earn a pliable degree that I could resort to if I was not able to get a job in law. I chose to major in Communication and focus in Public Relations, as well as to add a Psychology minor. My arrival at Purdue marked the beginning of the most prosperous period of my life in terms of my personal growth.

Upon first glance at my transcript, it appears that I was not a particularly applied student. However, a more accurate representation of my intellect is reflected in high scores on my SAT in high school, as well as a 159 on my LSAT more recently. My initial lack of dedication to education is not something I will deny. To put it plainly, I was an eighteen year-old boy, new to college, and studying a subject I was not particularly interested in. Needless to say, the drive to succeed was not there. After a sub-par freshman year, I moved out of the dorms and had to get a part-time job at Potbelly Sandwich Shop. This was the first semester of my sophomore year, the same semester I decided to pledge a reputable fraternity on campus. Adding 25 hrs. /week and pledgeship to my schedule brought me the worst academic semester I have ever had. After this, I knew it was time to get my act together. During junior year, my grades improved and I was promoted to a manager at my job. My senior year brought even more success at school and at work. Throughout my four years at Purdue, I mastered the essential skills of management, leadership, and critical thinking.

My experience at school brought with it experience in time management, people management, and resources management. Time management was a skill I was forced to develop because of my schedule at work and various commitments to my fraternity, alongside my regular schoolwork. I learned people management in both the “real-world”, through my job at Potbelly, and in the classroom by volunteering to be team manager for several large projects. Finally I learned resources management by maintaining my own finances as an undergraduate. I learned leadership through multiple mediums as well. I developed most of my leadership through my role at work. Often, I was the only manager in the store. This meant that not only was I looked up to for guidance, but I was also responsible for whatever may happen during a shift. I also developed leadership in the classroom through my job as team manager for a team of PR students working in coordination with the Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation. This was a semester-long project my final semester. Finally I developed critical thinking in both the real and academic arenas. At my job I was often relied upon to quickly develop solutions to unique challenges. This was complimented by the standard critical thinking skills developed during undergraduate studies. Now that I have told you why I want to study law, what relevant skills I have and how I developed them, and a little part of my story. Here is why I want to attend the Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

I have lived in Zionsville, Indiana my entire life and I am in love with the city of Indianapolis and wish to study law here. I am aware of the reputation that IU law has and I would like to part of such an outstanding tradition. Also, I have long-term political aspirations to serve our state in the United States Senate so practicing law here is very important to me. I hope your school will help me achieve my goals, and I thank you for your time and consideration.