



NCCentral
UNIVERSITY

School of Law

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It was only three years ago, I was working third shift at a hotel with law school nowhere on my mind. Since I had already checked in all the hotel guests, I decided to watch a movie on Netflix with my family-sized bag of Cheetos. That's when my best friend called, and during the conversation, he asked me if I still had the desire to go to law school. I had not thought about law school in years and told him that was something I gave up on years ago due to my 2.4 undergrad GPA and mediocre LSAT score. Little did I know, that conversation with my best friend changed the next three years of my life.

He told me I was too young to give up on my dreams, and if becoming a lawyer was something that I truly wanted, to take five minutes every night to do things like look up law schools in the area, how much it would cost to retake the LSAT, or anything to move towards my goal. Investing those five minutes a night was not difficult since I had so much free time working the night shift. Eventually, all that time added up, and I found myself retaking the LSAT and applying to NCCU School of Law. In addition, I reached out to the school's Dean of Admissions to tell him that despite my academic performance in the past, I was confident that I could excel in law school if given the chance. I still had my doubts because almost everyone in my life except my parents and best friend were telling me it would be a longshot to get into law school with my credentials, and I should look into another career.

Sadly, I was not accepted to NCCU Law, but instead, was invited to PBAP, where about 50 applicants were invited to do two weeks of law school classes in the middle of the summer. Based on performance and other factors, about half would get accepted to the law school, while the other half would be denied. It was a bittersweet moment, as I was a little dispirited that I did not receive a formal acceptance, but at the same time, grateful for the opportunity to prove myself. The way I saw it, my foot was already in the door, I just had to work a little harder to push myself all the way through.

Little did I know, my experience at PBAP was going to be invaluable to my success in law school. I learned how to brief cases, write law school essays, navigate through multiple choice questions, and network with other students and attorneys all within those two weeks. In addition, I was afforded the opportunity to make all the mistakes a first-year law student would make and learn from them before the fall semester started. Since I was a nontraditional student that had taken some time off between undergrad and law school, PBAP was the "practice" I needed. Once the fall semester began, I was able to hit the ground running. Exams were no longer as nerve-racking, I had a better grasp at how to manage my time, and I had a higher level of comfort and confidence since I had seen it all before during PBAP. So even though PBAP started out as an obstacle I had to overcome to pursue my dreams of becoming a lawyer, it ended up becoming a huge factor to my success.

Without NCCU and the PBAP program, I would not be where I am today. NCCU saw something in me when no one else did, and I look forward to making this institution proud.