



NC Central
UNIVERSITY

School of Law

Akaninyene “Akan” Umo

Hometown: Silver Spring, Maryland

Undergraduate: Virginia Commonwealth University

Being accepted to law school in 2015 was the best thing to happen to me. I was a first-generation college student to an immigrant single mother and would be the first in my family to enroll in professional school. I intended to put my family in retirement once I graduated from law school and passed the bar exam. Unfortunately, I failed law school.

After my dismissal, I graduated with my Master’s of Public Administration at the top of my class. In the spring of 2018, I gave up on my feeling-sorry-for-myself narrative, enrolled in a Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) prep course, and retook the LSAT. In September 2018, I began working for AmeriCorps where I recruited and supported volunteers and literacy tutors to increase literacy skills in kindergarten through third-grade students in Durham County Public Schools. This position reignited my spark to pursue law school because being an attorney would allow me to give back to underprivileged communities by providing the Black community with legal services and representation. I would also be able to use my education to inspire and empower young Black women and men who come from single-parent households to achieve anything to which they set their minds to. After receiving a second chance at North Carolina Central University School of Law, I served in various leadership positions and gained many opportunities while maintaining honors.

I understand that my pursuit in the legal field will not be easy, but I know with my drive and determination I will be able to conquer my goal of becoming an attorney. Although the challenges I will endure during my pursuit will be rough, I can and will overcome them. I am determined to become an attorney that North Carolina Central University School of Law will be proud of and an active member of the community who is there to support those in need.