

Business : After

The law is a system of rules and regulations that codify the morals of society. Its effect is pervasive. Law influences politics, economics, marriage, and how we live. I find the law fascinating as it has the power to transform Taiwan into a modern economy that can be successful in a competitive global environment.

I believe that a person must live for their passion, and my passion is to gain an international education from the University of *****'s LL.M. program to help improve my native country. I do this at tremendous risk. I have spent half my life studying the law and 10 years building my law practice. However, I must follow my passion. Even though an international education will be expensive and demand great sacrifice, I willingly make this commitment to achieve my career and personal objectives.

I first became initiated into the law by my Citizenship Education teacher during junior high school. He gave me a "Six Codes" book. This book outlines the six primary legal codes that comprise Taiwanese law. I was so enthralled that I literally could not stop reading. It was as exciting as a novel, but also provided practical solutions to societal problems. I read the entire thousand pages in one night. Although I did not understand the intricacies of the legal concepts, I did realize their importance in shaping society.

During senior high school, one of my favorite extracurricular activities was to observe real-life court cases in the district court. The cases ran the gamut of civil and criminal law including cases that involved murder, larceny, divorce, property rights, and contract law. I was fascinated by court procedure, rules of evidence, and even the litigation strategies employed by opposing attorneys.

Everyone had a distinct role. The judge, the plaintiff, the defendant, the defense attorney, and the prosecutor all combined to create a "show" that involved intrigue, anger, disgust, and tears. It made me realize the pervasive nature of law which has the potential to affect all aspects of society. While law has always been my passion, I am also concerned by international economics. Taiwan is an emerging country that must compete in a global environment that features established countries like the United States and nations in Europe, as well as the growing power of China.

Therefore, I decided to major in International Business at ***** University, the best department of the best college in Taiwan. After succeeding in the challenging management courses, I decided to double-major in Law, Economic and Financial Law. This did require a sacrifice on my part which included the time and cost of completing an additional 80 credits, but I felt spiritual contentment in combining my passion with my interests in helping my native Taiwan.

Despite my busy academic schedule, I found it critical for my overall education to participate in extracurricular activities. I volunteered for the ***** Foundation, which is dedicated to protecting human rights in Taiwan, especially in helping indigent people navigate the legal process.

Following graduation, I accepted another challenge. I could have been like several of my business classmates and found a good position with a good salary at an

international enterprise like Proctor & Gamble or Johnson & Johnson. Instead, I attended a “cram school” to prepare for the difficult bar exam in Taiwan; the pass rate ranged from 2% to 8%. Unfortunately, I failed. I tried again, and missed passing by just 0.2 points. However, I still did not give up my dream -- and persevered to try for a third time, and I finally succeeded. My persistence was evidence of my passion.

After passing the bar exam, I accepted a position in a commercial law firm, and soon discovered several problems in Taiwan’s legal system. While Taiwan is an emerging country, its growth is being inhibited by a lack of sophistication in laws governing corporate governance and intellectual property. Even though I could easily have stayed in my current job with a comfortable salary -- I have resigned my position willingly to gain an international education to learn United States’ legal principles to help transform and modernize Taiwan’s legal system.

I am already familiar with the University of ***** community. Eight years ago, I attended your school during summer vacation and took Business Communications and ESL courses. I fell in love with this incredible campus, and its international student body. The sunlight on my skin, the fresh atmosphere, the squirrels running through trees, and the smiles of teachers are contained in my most vivid memories. The day before I left, I took pictures of ***** and vowed that I would one day return.

My passion for studying law, my dedication to legal principles, my persistence in overcoming difficulties, and my willingness to sacrifice everything to help transform Taiwan’s legal system will make me a valuable member of the Berkeley community. If given this wonderful opportunity, I am confident that I will substantively contribute to your LL.M. program, and I am excited about helping you celebrate the school’s upcoming 100 year anniversary.