

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS WORKSHOP FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

JULY 21, 2007

**"A Guide to the Law School Application Process For People of Color" is available at:
www.forpeopleofcolor.org**

Sample Introduction to Personal Statement

My identity was number fifty-nine. I entered the musty warehouse, lined with cold gray walls and yellow windows, and was immediately greeted by the humming of machines. I walked past rows of workers hunched over their stations, too concerned with meeting their quota for the day to look up and notice the newest face among them. My station was the same as that which my mother had occupied for the last five years, station fifty-nine. I had the task of sewing sleeves onto Ralph Lauren shirts. Once entering that warehouse and sitting at their workstation, the workers were under the threat of deportation or of easy replacement by other immigrant workers. Further, although I was born in the United States and had just begun my first year at UCLA, I too became invisible and came to be seen as just another commodity. I was growing up in poverty in the Latino community of East Los Angeles, working alongside immigrant garment workers, and witnessing their exploitation that has fueled my desire to study law.

Sample Conclusion to Personal Statement

I am not just another college kid who is going to law school because I cannot stand the sight of blood or because my parents expect me to do so. My legal education will not be about abstract theories in which I am unsure how to apply in real life. I know exactly how I plan to use my law school education and I can barely wait to begin.

Sample Standardized Test Addendum

Although it is not my intention to seek excuses for my LSAT score of 153, I do believe that it must be considered in context. I have never tested well on standardized tests. I consistently tested in the 40% - 60% percentile in elementary, middle, and high school. The SAT was no different, where I scored an 860 (400 Math / 460 Verbal). I believe, however, that my GPA is a much better indicator of my academic potential and intellectual strength. Although it dropped during my first three years because of heavy work commitments, it increased significantly during my final two years when I was able to devote more time to my studies.

Sample School Interruption Addendum

As I discussed in my personal statement, I withdrew from Cal Poly Pomona during the Winter Quarter of 1994 due to economic reasons. My father lost his job earlier that year, and I took on the role of primary financial provider for my family. I returned to school in the Spring of 1996 once my family's economic situation was stabilized.