

Law School Personal Statement Examples

I have a love for words. Words are used in law in a way that is incomparable to any other discipline; the interpretation of words in a courtroom can condemn someone to prison or set them free. The vital importance attached to words has nurtured my interest in the law and is one of the reasons I look forward to studying it.

After reading Wacks' 'Law: A Very Short Introduction' and 'What About Law?' by Barnard, O'Sullivan, and Virgo, I was fascinated by the development of the Anglo-Welsh legal system and began to see it as perhaps our most undervalued export throughout history. My interest in the technicalities of some of the cases related in 'What About Law', notably the debate over the value of nine inches of swimming pool depth in *Ruxley v. Forsyth*, led me to read 'Is Eating People Wrong?' by Hutchinson. Amongst other cases, the book introduced me to the eponymous case of *R v. Dudley and Stephens*. This exhibits how the Queen's Bench Division was mindful of the potential consequences of establishing a necessary defense for murder, demonstrating the power that one court's decision has to affect the entire legal field. Whilst recognizing the view as symptomatic of its era, I disagreed with Lord Coleridge's thundering proclamation that it may sometimes be a man's duty to die: his argument is undermined by holding the 'reasonable man' ubiquitous in law to unreasonable moral standards.

The online course 'Law for Non-Lawyers' by Monash University gave me a broad insight into criminal, contract, tort, and intellectual property law. My interest in criminal law drove me to complete the online course 'Crime, Justice and Society' by Sheffield University, giving me a holistic overview of criminal justice proceedings, including the disproportionate effects of imprisonment on women, and suggesting some alternatives to traditional sanctions. A week of work experience in the pensions department of [company 1] allowed me to understand a specialized area of the law and apply it to real-world situations, a skill further developed by a week at [company 2] in-house legal department in relation to the commercial law, notably how mergers and acquisitions law underpins free-market competition. The additional experience of drafting a settlement agreement reinforced the imperative that the words I typed had to be clear and final. The most valuable lesson, however, came when I was handed a contract of several hundred pages and asked to look for one critical detail, which taught me the importance of meticulousness. I recently visited the Supreme Court to witness *[A] v [B]*, a very technical Scottish case. Watching the justices decoding the

details of the case using comparisons to garden fences and exploding factories reassured me that even at the highest level, the law must remain accessible.

Within school, I have regularly attended law society, improving my debating skills when discussing an area of the law. One of the liveliest debates I took part in concerned the judicial retention elections which take place in some American states. I am also scheduled to take part in the Bar Mock Trial Competition as a defense barrister, and, in the course of assembling my case, I have learned about the subtlety involved in court proceedings, such as the ability to portray a defendant in a certain way using the examination-in-chief.

Serving as a House Captain in Year 13 has forced me to stay organized and work to a strict time limit, for example when organizing events. Through the composition of speeches, my writing has become clearer and more persuasive. Playing 1st and 2nd XV rugby for my school also allowed me to work for and lead a team under heavy pressure.

Personally, caring for my sister, who has been ill for several months, has forced me to sacrifice time with my friends and has maintained my focus in life on the areas which I consider to be truly important. Studying the law, I hope, will be one.