

My African American Heritage, My American Dream
By D. Williams, 2016 Stipend Awardee

I would like to say thank you in advance for covering the expenses for my upcoming college trip. As an African American teenager, I have the dream of becoming a lawyer. These are the words that one day I will finally hear: "The jury has made their decision, the plaintiffs have been found guilty." I will finally know and have the mindset of a lawyer. I will understand who/what I have become.

A lawyer is a professional person authorized to practice law.(dictionary.com). Being a lawyer means that there are many responsibilities. I am very outspoken, and believe in fighting for what I want or think is right. It takes a great deal of timing and patience to finish any job correctly. I'm sure I can handle being a lawyer. All I have to do is work as much as I can to succeed in the case as I continue to work hard in school. I know that I will accomplish my American Dream of becoming a lawyer. All I would have to do is keep my head in my books and be able to maintain the grade average of at least a 3.7 or above.

A lawyer should have good leadership qualities, and I will be great because I am a born leader. Before becoming a lawyer, I know that there are many educational hills I must climb. First, as for most jobs, I know I must have a high school diploma. Then there's college. I must attend for four years. I understand that there would be a lot of schooling, but I have the goal of becoming one of the best African Americans female lawyers of all times. I know that I will be able to do anything that I put my mind to as long as I stay focused and have a positive mindset I will be able to make it any law school that I attend.

Even today, discrimination still exists, not only from outside the profession but also from *inside*. So I would like to prove all of those people wrong who thought I could not make it by following my dream of becoming the greatest African American female lawyer there is.

The people who have influenced me to become a lawyer I would say are my teachers and advisor. I would say that because when I am ready to give up on anything they push me to give a hundred and ten percent of my best and know that no one else is better. They encourage me

to never give up on life and to stay positive. With them behind me, I won't let anything get in my way of achieving my dreams and show me the rope of life.