



Name: Dorothy Alcincord

School: St. Louis University School of Law

Internship Company: Ameren

Where You're From: Haiti

Q: First off, why do you want to become a lawyer?

A: Growing up in Haiti where women did not have the same opportunity as men and the political system was in turmoil, made me feel like my voice as a human being was insignificant and my future uncertain. As a result, I moved to the United States for a better life. However, when I arrived, not only my gender was pinning me down, but also my race. I had to learn to my disdain that as a black woman my life is not as valuable as others. Furthermore, being an immigrant living in an area where people were not culturally educated, had me experience firsthand xenophobia. As a result of my experience, I decided that the only way I could help people like me from going through the same experiences was to go to law school to understand the law and use it to help and represent the voiceless. In college, I worked as an intern for Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou at the New York State District Office where I managed constituents' cases and kept track of bills moving through the legislative process. I also worked at Dominicanos USA where I helped people register to vote and naturalize while also connecting them to the resources they need. My professional and personal experience as an immigrant, a woman, and a black woman, have built and fortified my desire to become an attorney. I plan to use my insight to help others in need and pave a path for young black girls to follow or be inspired by.

Q: Who has been a major influence or inspiration to you?

A: My mother. I admire her strength, and she inspires me every day to be kind like her and to follow my dream. She is very supportive of me and I am thankful for her.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in your career?

A: I hope to be able to help as many people as I can who are in need of representation. However, what I hope the most is to be able to pave a path for younger girls who look like me. When I was younger, I knew no one in my family or surroundings who were lawyers. Matter of fact, people in my surroundings, and even some family members had always tried to deter me from becoming an attorney because based on their words, it was "too big of a dream." As a young black girl and even as a young woman in college, I had never known nor met a black woman attorney. Every lawyer I would meet did not look like me. In another universe, this probably would have worked to deter me from following my dream, however, it made me even more persistent and determined to become an attorney. Thus, my goal as a future attorney is to inspire younger girls and pave a path to show them that anything is possible by participating in or even creating, later on, mentorship programs that can support them in following their dreams. The law community needs more diversity!

Q: What do you hope to gain from your 2022 Summer Internship?

A: I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how to practice law and gain new skills that will help me further my career as an attorney.

Q: Just for fun, what's one song that you have completely memorized?

A: Vent frais vent du matin

Q: Anything else you'd like us to know about yourself?

A: I speak three languages and taught myself how to play Violin to spend time while I was in quarantine.

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