

Name: D'Andre Gaye

Schools: Saint Louis University Law

Internship Company: Rabo Diversified Services

Where You're From: Thomasville, NC

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

A: I am pursuing a career as a lawyer because I believe that this profession presents the best opportunity for me to grow into the version of myself that aligns with my conception of advocacy. Coming from a family of migrants, I became aware of many complexities within our current legal system from a very young age. This awareness sparked my interest in learning more about the law and discovering how I can practice advocacy to help others. My definition of advocacy is unique in that it entails not just being a voice for others, but empowering them to speak their truths and providing the resources they need to accomplish their legal goals. I believe that becoming a lawyer is what will allow me to fulfill these values and pursue challenges that will help me grow as a person.

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

A: My greatest influence has always been my family. Throughout my life, they consistently stressed the importance of pushing myself to pursue opportunities for self-betterment since many people may never get the chance due to all kinds of societal barriers like citizenship or socioeconomic status. Particularly during moments of self-doubt, they reminded me that I was capable of accomplishing a lot with the opportunities in front of me. Moreover, learning their experiences allowed me to develop a deeper appreciation for the ability I have to be able to pursue my aspirations. It is this that pushes me each day to pursue a path of greater victory for myself and my communities.

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

A: Part of what has motivated my passion for working in the legal profession is being part of the solution to developing an ambiance of belonging in the legal profession. To me this means empowering individuals of diverse experiences to utilize their talent toward promoting best practices in their field of practice. Throughout my career, I would like a space for more believers in empowering others to speak their truths, validating their experiences, and providing the resources they need to accomplish their legal goals. One day, I hope to work with a team of professionals who share this philosophy and who are dedicated to being part of the solution.

Q: What do you hope to gain from your 2023 Summer Internship?

A: My main goal that I would like to achieve with my Summer Internship is to explore what it means to be a lawyer through hands-on experience. I value the opportunity to be able to not only explore different areas of law, but also put my analytical abilities to the test. I hope to gain

valuable skills, as well as develop personal and professional connections, that I can continue to utilize throughout my legal career.

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

A: *Different* by Micah Tyler

Q: Is there anything else you'd like us to know about yourself?

A: Something I like to do in my free time is invent card games based on various decks in my collection or from scratch. When I'm not working on that, I'm catching up with a friend, eating a nice meal, or trying to learn a new language.