



Name: Adesola Orogade

Schools: Washington University School of Law

Internship Company: Washington University General Counsel Office

Where You're From: Deltona, Florida

Q. - What appeals to you about becoming a lawyer?

A. - Before law school, I was passionate about volunteering and giving back to my community. I began volunteering during my freshman year of college, dedicating time each week to participate in food drives for various organizations. The smiles on the faces of those I helped warmed my heart, providing me with a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. Eager to do more, I joined the Guardian Ad Litem program in Hillsborough County. After completing the required trainings, I was entrusted with selecting my first two cases. These experiences profoundly impacted my understanding of the foster care system.

I witnessed firsthand the complexities of the system: the decisions made by the court and judges in what they believed to be the best interest of the children, the challenges faced by overburdened caseworkers, and the trauma experienced by children when removed from their parents and placed in alternate living arrangements. I observed the lengths some family members would go to in order to reunite with their children, juxtaposed with those who seemed indifferent to their well-being. This exposure to the harsh realities of the world saddened me, yet it also ignited a desire for change. Initially, I aspired to single-handedly transform the system. However, I soon realized the entrenched nature of its complexities. Instead, I recognized the importance of influencing policy and advocating for systemic improvements. I saw the potential to become a catalyst for change, serving as a precedent for future advocates, lawyers, and judges. It was this realization that solidified my decision to pursue a career in law. I am driven to stand alongside other lawyers, fighting for equitable justice within our community and striving to be a part of the positive change it so desperately needs.

Q. - Who has been a major influence or inspiration to you, and why?

A. - Someone who inspires me is Viola Davis. This actress, in her numerous roles, has portrayed strong characters and made a name for herself despite her background and upbringing. As a first generational black female law student, I understand the importance of building resilience to portray a strong leadership character while making a name for myself in the legal world.

Q. - What do you hope to accomplish in your career?

A. - After law school, I hope to become a litigation lawyer advocating not only for the clients of the firm where I work, but also for the community in which I serve. Additionally, I have dreamed of establishing a company that recognizes various minority and less popular legal practice areas. At some point, I would like to create a firm where pre-law and current law students can receive training and exposure to a wide range of practice areas, including those that may not receive much attention until there is a global demand for lawyers in that field.

Q. - What do you hope to gain from your 2024 Summer Internship?

A. - At the conclusion of my 2024 Summer Internship, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be an attorney than I currently possess. This entails honing and improving my legal research and writing skill sets, as well as interacting with attorneys and absorbing as much knowledge as possible from those at the WashU General Counsel Office. Additionally, I aim to gain insight into the day-to-day realities of practicing in various legal areas.

Q. - Just for fun, if you could only listen to one song for the rest of time - what would it be?

A. - Fight Song by Rachel Platten

Q. - Is there anything else that you'd like for us to know about yourself?

A. - I love exploring new places and participating in new activities on weekends, as it fuels my curiosity and motivates me to maintain a balanced lifestyle conducive to both personal and professional growth. I enjoy playing badminton and am eager to learn to play different board games when possible.