

I was new to being surrounded by lawyers. My perceptions of the legal community had been predominantly shaped by TV shows and movies. I knew that this could not possibly be the reality I faced as I eagerly prepared to write my LSAT and apply to law school. However, I did not know entirely what to expect otherwise. Christian Legal Fellowship has been the fundamental body that has allowed me to peer into the real world of law, to see how law is truly practiced.

When looking back upon the past few months and my involvement in CLF, one word comes to mind, and that is inspiration. From the stories I have been told about what to expect when I enter law school, to watching lawyers like Cal Beresh in action, to having business cards handed to me along with the words “if you need anything, never hesitate to call,” I am amazed at the positive influence such a body of people can have on me. The best part is that I get to watch as I realize that this is God weaving His plan for my life together at just the right moment.

I have always been set on becoming a lawyer, but I was never really sure why. It has felt like law was my calling. Deciding to take the LSAT was a large challenge, and felt like the most formidable step I needed to overcome in order to gain acceptance into a law school. God had put me on the road to law for a reason, so I pressed onward. The LSAT went quite well, and I am excitedly waiting to hear from numerous law school’s admission committees in the near future.

God has also been training me to become a Christian leader. I have been involved in a Christian summer camp and year round ministry for a number of years, in a number of facets. I am coming upon the end of my tenure at this camp, and coincidentally it was as I was sharing my testimony about how God has prepared me to change the world for Him, somehow through law, that Karen Henein pulled me aside after to tell me about CLF. I was overjoyed to say the least that my passion for law and my passion for ministry were instantly intertwined by this organization. Until this point, I had believed that I would have to accept that I cannot be outspoken about my faith while at work as a lawyer. The CLF, and specifically the student ministries division has allowed me to re-evaluate that, and know that I can integrate the two together.

I am so thankful that there is an organization with a heart to help Christian law students. I was scared of going to law school by myself, and not knowing who to connect with. I was afraid of constant competition for leading articling positions. But Christ has taught me that we are stronger when we work as a community and share information than when we rebel against others and become self-interested. I know that I am not alone on this journey, that there are hundreds of lawyers and law students with a wealth of knowledge who are willing and seeking to help me, to pray for me, and to be a base of support. The CLF has shown me that there is love and empathy in an industry that had always appeared to me to be so cold and heartless. It has shown me that there is justice, and that God is in the midst of the details of every legal case, of every law school, and of every student that has the desire to be part of the profession. We may have to search for His presence, but CLF has proved to me that God is there, and is actively answering prayers. Thank you for continuing this organization.

Sincerely,

Ian McFadgen