Professor Coughlin

Tuesday, August 27th

All About.

As I maneuver through college, I hope to learn a lot about my profession and enter law school with a better understanding of where my future is headed and the career path that I chose. My name is Aisse Tounkara, a young 18 year old girl from the Bronx just trying to make it in life, and give back to my community. Attending college was a goal of mine that I knew I most certainly wanted to pursue after highschool. Unfortunately growing up poor is really tough unless you experienced it firsthand. I saw my parents struggle trying to raise 9 children. My parents worked overtime just to provide for me and all my other siblings. Here you have two immigrant parents in the United States, who barely spoke english just trying to make it. They never got to experience what it was like to attend college because they never had the resources to get them there, yet alone the money to do so. Being the first generation college student puts a lot of pressure on you. It's like im doing this for me and for them also. Sometimes I become overwhelmed and it can become really stressful at times. There is a voice in my head saying "you got this girl". Besides everything I just stated something interesting about me is that I like to volunteer, and take on any opportunity that will benefit the people around me. I like to write, cook, and pray. When I pray I feel a very strong connection to God. Praying is my way of relieving stress, and speaking to God about my problems. In life we're all battling something. I have this fear that if I don't do great in college that I will not succeed in life. This pressure may

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be the fact that I'm a first generation college student or maybe the fact that i'm adjusting from highschool to college. This is the real world out here.

I am in this program because law/legal work is what interests me. It's something I've always been passionate about since a little girl. At the age of 7, I told myself "YOU WILL BECOME A JUDGE". When I was younger, my father was in the process of becoming a legal resident and in the process of all that he had an attorney. I learned so much from that attorney. She inspired me to stick with the legal profession. I remember one day my father, his attorney, and I met with a judge to decide whether or not he will be granted permanent residency. When she was speaking to my father my 7 year old self yelled out "I WANT TO BECOME A JUDGE JUST LIKE YOU SOMEDAY" She smiled, looked me in the eye, and said I have faith in you. You will be an amazing judge one day. From there on out I decided to take on opportunities with networking with judges through my school. I want to be a judge because it is an important job. I want to protect people and make sure everyone has equal treatment under the law. Judges are really important people. This is a profession that I will wake up to every morning and smile because I am doing what I dearly love. I hope to benefit from this program, and become a wiser person.

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