

Broken Arrow High School (OK)

Jiffy Lube® Teen Driver Scholarship Essay

*By, Kara Guinn*

If I earned a dollar every time my parents said, “Talent can only get you so far in life, and hard work gets you the rest of the way,” or “character is fate” I would probably have enough saved to cover law school tuition and maybe even treat myself to the extra fancy highlighters that real lawyers use. Their motto has practically become the soundtrack of my life, and it is exactly what drives me today.

My long-term goal is to become an international lawyer. Not the intimidating type who slams briefcases down dramatically, but someone who advocates for human rights, helps communities understand global legal systems, and supports fairness across borders. I genuinely enjoy research, problem solving, and decoding complicated situations. Friends tell me this means I am destined for law or that I simply enjoy stress more than the average person. I prefer to believe it is the first explanation.

I did not always know I wanted to pursue law. The turning point arrived when I entered Early College High School in ninth grade. I originally applied because I wanted a strong academic experience. I did not realize that the decision would shape my confidence

and my future direction. I was so enthusiastic when I filled out the application that I forgot a very important step. I forgot to tell my parents. They learned about it only after a counselor contacted them, and that phone call was probably more surprising for them than for me. Thankfully, Broken Arrow Schools believed in me and gave me the opportunity to earn my high school diploma and my associate degree at the same time.

This path was not easy. The workload, expectations, and pressure were far more intense than anything I had experienced before. Many nights ended with tears, too much homework, and internal debates about whether I had made a huge mistake. Even my parents told me that I could return to a traditional school setting and that doing so would not be a failure. They were completely correct, but something inside me refused to stop. I told myself to get through one more quiz, one more assignment, and one more semester. I chose to stay even when quitting would have been the simple solution.

Remaining in the program is one of the smartest decisions I have ever made. It taught me discipline, resilience, and time management. These skills are essential for any future lawyer and especially for someone who hopes to enter the demanding world of international law. At the time I had no idea that international law would become my passion. I only knew that challenging myself would open doors later in life, and that instinct was right.

This year I was accepted to the University of Tulsa. The university offers an excellent accelerated law program, opportunities to study abroad, and courses that can expand my

understanding of different cultures. These experiences will help prepare me for the global perspective required in international law.

My plan is to excel academically, build meaningful professional relationships, and pursue internships that expose me to multiple legal systems. After earning my bachelor's degree, I will apply to law school and continue to follow the path that inspires me.

What drives me is simple. Hard work, resilience, and the belief that determination can turn challenges into opportunities. I cannot wait to make a meaningful impact on the world.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kara Guinn