**Taylor Brown**

**Arkansas Rehabilitation Services 2020**

**Virtual Career Competition**

**Justice for the Deceased**

“The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is a duty of the living to do so for them”- Louis

McMaster Bujold

Since before I could remember, I always wanted to be a lawyer, and whenever someone

would ask why, I would reply, “I want to help people”. Even as a child, I had a passion for helping people and putting others before myself. There are many different career paths that a person could take, but for me, it is clear my career has to be focused on helping people.

I originally wanted to be a lawyer because lawyers *fight for the truth*, but I later realized that lawyers do not always defend the truth, they defend their clients' stories.  Being a lawyer is an honorable job, but unfortunately, lawyers do not know if their clients are completely truthful.  They are bound by the law to defend their clients regardless of guilt or innocence.  After coming to this realization, I had no idea what I wanted to do for a living.

Growing up in a community with so many injustices, I know my career choice has to make a difference and positively impact legal, social, and economic disparities.  It was not until binge-watching many episodes of Criminal Minds, I began to pique an interest in Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). Although Criminal Minds is a fictional television show, I realized being a crime-scene investigator is a real, impactful, and important job. It is the job of the crime-scene investigator to fight for justice for people that cannot fight for themselves. Investigating a crime scene and piecing together a story to find out the truth is how the living can bring justice to the deceased.

Crime-scene investigators are also responsible for “processing crime scenes for

evidence, photographing crime scenes, packaging, labeling and transporting evidence,

documenting autopsies, briefing investigators, writing reports, and testifying in court.”

(Study.com) A crime-scene investigator must have a degree in Forensic Science and/or

Criminal Justice. Some related jobs only require an associate degree, but most jobs require a bachelor's or even a master's degree in both studies. With the proper education, the average salary for a crime-scene investigator at the state level is $66,751 a year and a federal level the average salary is $117,352 a year. (Career Guide)

I plan to start my career in Texas as a state-level detective. Although I would be more than grateful to be an agent for the state, I strive to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). I plan to go to college for four years, major in Forensic Science, minor in Criminal Justice, join the police academy, serve as a detective at state level for one to two years, and finally, join the FBI as a crime scene investigator. As a crime scene investigator for the FBI, I would be an official FBI agent and also have more clearance than a state-level detective which will allow me to obtain my ultimate goal of becoming a federal crime-scene investigator.

I have always had a passion for all people, and I feel becoming a CSI agent is the best way I can personally and professionally help people. Even though a TV series sparked my inspiration, I learned the valuable lesson that incarceration is not always the right answer as the resolution for crime. Living in a minority community, it seems as if incarceration is the go-to solution, but some people need alternatives. A CSI agent is not all about catching the “bad guys”, it is also about analyzing the accused behavior while determining their mental state and presenting the facts to solve the crime.  In solving the crime, it may be determined some people need psychological help and should be taken to a mental hospital instead of being incarcerated. Those people who cannot fight for themselves need people like me, who are passionate and driven, to fight for them.

There are many career paths a person could take that could have a positive effect on the world.  I believe there is one job that will provide enjoyment and fulfillment for a person’s calling in life, and my perfect job is providing justice for people.  I can accomplish providing justice for people through crime scene investigation. My goal after college is to make a difference in this world and my job path will be the first step in that goal.

Works Cited

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