

In my religion, fire represents divine guidance, so when my printer caught flames while producing a stack of asset purchase agreements, my father finally entrusted the sale of his pharmacy to a team of attorneys.

In that transaction, I first recognized how deeply law underpins every facet of healthcare. Witnessing how lawyers helped my father navigate was my first introduction to the legal practice, and it catalyzed my exploration of how providers of healthcare and practitioners of law can collaborate towards positive outcomes for patients. Through that experience, I learned that though they weren't counting pills, the attorneys were still elevating health by freeing my father from the legal maelstrom of selling his life's work. After witnessing the collaborative relationship they forged, I committed myself to exploring the intersection of health and law both academically and professionally.

While coursework in UGA's College of Public Health sharpened my understanding of health policy and systems, my long-term goal of advising healthcare professionals and business owners materialized when I immersed myself in the legal sphere: shadowing, networking, and learning from attorneys in corporate, healthcare, and mergers & acquisitions practice.

Shadowing Megan Ebenschweiger-Schultz, a partner at RKPT in corporate and M&A, I saw how attorneys structure transactions, anticipate client's challenges, and position businesses for long-term growth. Michael Silverman, founding partner of a Miami-based healthcare and business firm, showed me that with a JD, I can pair provider protection with measurable improvements in patient outcomes. Working with him gave me firsthand insight on how a law degree, combined with an entrepreneurial mindset and strong network can enable attorneys to balance their passion and practice.

Bringing these experiences back into the classroom, I began to see my coursework in public health differently: the law wasn't separate from healthcare, but a force that shaped how it is delivered and protected. Yet leading student organizations in both areas exposed a real gap in how future clinicians and future lawyers understand each other's work. When Dr. Ruth Cline of Athens OBGYN addressed the pre-medical organization I lead, she spoke about optimizing care with artificial intelligence but did not address the legal implications of sharing protected health information with AI. At the pre-law association I help lead, Christian Henry of Hall Booth Smith described defending healthcare professionals in malpractice cases, which revealed to me how proactive legal education can reduce risk before litigation arises.

Working at the intersection of health and law, I recognized how much potential exists when both fields work in tandem and how much professionals rely on clear legal guidance to keep doing what they do best. The most meaningful support often comes from helping people understand complex decisions, protect what they built, and safeguard their ability to keep serving their communities. These experiences have shown me that the perspective I have developed, grounded in health, policy, and people, is ready to be tested and expanded through legal study.

Earning my JD from [school] would prepare me to advise and protect the healthcare providers and business owners who first inspired my pursuit of the law. [School's] [opportunities: clinics, externships, hospital connections, etc] would provide the hands-on experience necessary to guide providers through launching practices, hiring partners, and addressing community health needs. As an attorney, I aim to provide the same sense of stability and trust that I once watched lawyers bring to my family, protecting what others have built so their work caring for others can continue.