

Dear Mr. Bogoroch,

I hope my letter finds you well. My name is Zohal Nassery and I am an incoming JD student at Osgoode Hall Law School. I was recently awarded the Bogoroch & Associates Scholarship in the amount of \$16,666. I wanted to take the time to thank you and the firm for your generosity. I am extremely honoured to receive this award! Attending law school has been a dream of mine since high school, and thanks to your generous donation, I am able to make this dream come true.

Like many others, my father left Afghanistan with hopes of achieving the American Dream. He settled himself, my mother, and my three siblings in the United States of America. Las Vegas appealed to him; although some people may consider it a kitschy tourist destination, my father saw it as a microcosm of what the United States has to offer: grandeur and opportunity. Despite having lived there for 15 years, working night shifts as a cab driver, and raising their children as Americans, my parents never received American citizenship. They reapplied as refugee claimants every year. Their case was always denied.

My father passed away in 2005 when I was six years old. Shortly after his passing, the United States government threatened my family with deportation. Struggling with recent loss, my family had to scramble to find a place to live, or else risk being sent back to Afghanistan; a country wholly unknown to them, and made dangerous by a decade-long war. Fortunately, Canada accepted my family as asylum seekers. My family's experience is one of the few factors that piqued my interest in law, policy, and social justice. When I learned more about law and human rights in high school, it fueled my passion further. This passion, paired with a goal to make my parents proud, heightened my interest in pursuing law post-secondary.

I am a recent graduate of Ryerson University's Bachelor of Social Work program, where I maintained high academic standing throughout my undergraduate degree. The past four years, I worked with multiple organizations such as the John Howard Society of Durham and the Agincourt Community Services Association. I also volunteered with the Durham Community Legal Clinic and the Afghans of Toronto. In my spare time, I love writing poetry about mental health, grief and culture. As a result of my life experiences as a first-generation Afghan woman, I have a strong passion for social justice. In my future practice as a lawyer, I intend to utilize this passion and serve underprivileged communities as an immigration attorney or family lawyer. While I haven't fully decided what kind of law I want to pursue, I intend to incorporate anti-oppressive practice into my work and fully commit to honesty, integrity and transparency.

As a student from a single-parent, low-income household, receiving this scholarship has relieved the financial burden of financing my education and will allow me to focus on my studies. For that, and your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals, I am incredibly grateful.

Sincerely,

Zohal Nassery