

Nine grueling months passed after the caisson carried Neil Anthony Santoriello, to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. Neil and I earned our Eagle Scout Award months apart within Troop 139, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and had spent countless nights camping and now what an eternity is of emotions is best summed up in the days gone by of childhood. In earning my Eagle Scout Award, I was paired with a mentor, James McConomy, an attorney, war veteran and fellow Eagle Scout. James first introduced me to Intellectual Property law in showing me a T-Shirt depicting Fred Rogers, holding a handgun instead of the usual book, which read "Welcome to my Hood." It fascinated me that this was part of the legal system, the idea that someone could take something as pure as a childhood icon, which for me resonated especially because of his Pittsburgh base, and bastardize the trademark and then attempt to justify it as 'artwork.' How does one determine whose ideas belong to whom? James and I meet every year or so to follow up on each other's lives; he always has provided me with good advice and answered questions truthfully and concisely. When I told him of Neil's exequies, he explained how two weeks after graduating Harvard Law, he was in the U.S. Army training as a soldier, for what would become the Bay of Pigs invasion. These men have shaped me profoundly, in a world shaped by character; theirs echo 'freedom.'

I began working as a senior in high school at Texas Instruments and have been employed full-time throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies. As such, my undergraduate studies were interrupted by corporate responsibilities, where both graduate and business school followed a heightened value for implicit knowledge gained by both book-learning and tacit awareness of scholarly logics, taking me beyond just books and lectures. At Honeybee, an engineering firm specializing in aerospace robotics and known for its collaborations with NASA, I am charged with responsibilities that are really "out of this world." I have worked on projects that have landed on Mars, fought cyber-terrorists attempting to hack corporate servers and seen how government bureaucracy works in the science community. While attending graduate school I ecstatically took part in an intellectual property

law course, taught by an industry associate, Timothy W. Reinig. After researching the handling of Intellectual Property at my employers I recognized that I needed a better understanding of business before I could even attempt an IP overhaul at Honeybee Robotics. In business school, I worked on countless business plans, read piles of Harvard Business School case studies, purchased an Economist Subscription, and dove head first in business ethics and emerging green technology innovation. I earned my MBA while markets changed, recession materialized and fingers pointed which brought me further to examine the underlying legal apparatus sustaining such practices. With a NYLS law degree and the NYLS "Peer to Patent Project" in my repertoire of instruction, I will be able to provide sound legal advice pertaining to subjective genius. Yet I will also be able to navigate the constellation seeded in the reflections on life experiences, inquiry and rigorous determination of constituting "justice for all."

The unique perspective I will bring to New York Law School is not merely based in business prowess but also a multitude of skills and ingenuity. Managing all these studies has not been easy, hiccoughs do occur: I have seen two parents survive tremendous medical feats, my father a heart transplant recipient, my mother, a double mastectomy, breast cancer survivor and nephew, born two months premature (now four years old and tells you every time he gets the chance). In short, my background has instilled in me a sense of inner motivation, perseverance, and urgency, urgency to fulfill the objectives I hold dear: to not delay the pursuit and expansion of knowledge, to more intimately understand the underlying logics that structure our country and our lives, and to push myself towards a space of inquiry which combines my experience and the hybrid knowledge I have acquired. Neil and James are a constant and vital reminder of how public service can take many forms. For Neil, it was a passion and dedication for the armed services, for James, it was straddling both service and law. The challenge of law is that it is both applied equally to all, yet each case has its unique dimensions and interpretive challenges. In that sense, law demands that we balance what I have come to value: evincible standards yet unique paths. Paths I will navigate attending NYLS evening program.