

I think I would be an unusual student at the University. I am only 23 and lived through three revolutions in my country. Here is my story. I was born to a simple and poor Ukrainian family. I do mean that we were poor, but when I use the word “poor”, I do not feel ashamed and I do not feel sorry. If anything, I am proud of it. In Ukraine not having money is often a sign of honest professionals. My first childhood memories are from a dormitory for chemical plant workers in the city XXXXX. I also spent a lot of time with my granny in the village where my dad is from. My parents had to work and would leave me for a while with her. They thought it was a better place for me as a child and when it was time to go to school, they brought me back to the city. We moved a couple times in /this city/ and ended up in a two room apartment, which my parents also got because of their job. It was still not big enough to raise a family. It might be the part of the reason why I am the only child. The chemical plant went bankrupt and was sold to a big German company that closed it to avoid competition. My parents lost their jobs. To make a living they started a business shipping produce from South Ukraine and selling it in the bazaar. Many people in my city had to abandon their specialization to make some money too. Currently my dad, owing to his previous electrician’s degree together with his engineering skills, taught himself how to work with refrigerators and makes a living buy repairing and selling old ones. My granny was becoming pretty old and needed some help and support. We could not bring her over to stay with us and she would have never agreed. Since a job did not hold them in the city anymore, my parents decided to move back to the village with granny and do their business from there. I needed to keep going to school. This is why my parents had to make the hard decision to leave me basically alone in our city apartment when I was about 13 years old. They trusted me and they took good care of me, they would call a couple times a day and come during the week together to the city for work. On the weekend, I would always go to the village and I really enjoyed it. I really liked to study. In this calm atmosphere I had a lot of time for it and I always was lucky to get good teachers, lots of support, and encouragement from my parents. XXXXX, one of my recommenders, made it possible for me to understand better U.S. culture and ways of doing business. He also gave me Sonia Sotomayor’s memoir, signed by her. This is my favorite book among the many others that very much inspired me and helped me to learn English. I had to teach myself English because my school classes did not make me proficient as I would like. My other recommender, XXXXXX, taught me that our system does not teach lawyers how to think very well and that the most discerning lawyers in our country have degrees from programs like yours. All this experience brought me to where I am. Ukraine got its independence exactly a half year after I was born. Then there was the Orange Revolution. When I was in Kyiv getting my master’s degree, Maidan took place. Finally I was able to participate actively and

determine my future. There are a lot of discussions and propaganda regarding the issue of whether Ukraine relates to European culture or to Russian. Whether we are brothers with Russia or destined to come home to Europe does not matter. When we look East and West, it is obvious who supports democracy, honesty and sovereignty. Maidan and other events of the previous and this year removed any doubts what we associate ourselves with and for what we are ready to fight. All my life I have lived in a time of constant reforms. As a result of a lack of political will many of them still have not reached their purpose or were partial. This all reflects in society, and Soviet customs are slowly changing and mixed in a new order. I know what it is to live in a hybrid society. I learned how to see through words to real intents and detect something that can never work out. As with all young lawyers in Ukraine, it is difficult to find work. I have had one full-time internship with an English-speaking law firm in Ukraine. I am pursuing other opportunities and expect to have experienced one or more before starting law school in the U.S. I do not think that many students like me have applied to your program. I can see and understand a world from very different points of views. I understand the big value of your degree. I am very tolerant and open for a new experience and willing to share mine. I know the value of this degree and the difference it could make. Being Ukrainian by itself does not make me special among your applicants. But the words I am writing here are my own. I do not aim to get a prestigious American degree to become a professional hypocrite. When you combine my nationality with honesty and an inability to imagine taking bribes, then you can judge whether I could enhance the student body.