

For me, borders were not a sphere of an imaginary map, but a living threshold, where the law, culture, and the human essence intersected. Having been raised in a migrant family, we were used to moving between two countries regularly. Throughout my early years, I became a witness to the differences between the legal systems, not just in terms of form, but also in use, and the impact that these differences have on life.

One afternoon, I went with my cousin to a border checkpoint, and I thought it was going to be a normal crossing. However, the situation that developed was quite contrary to the expectations. My cousin, who was with me, was detained for hours by a police officer due to a minor change in documents. Although the officers acted according to the rules, the inflexibility of the law was in opposition to his life realities, as he was a law-abiding citizen. He had been to school, had worked, and served his community. Seeing him lost and scared, I understood that justice is not merely about rules, but the collocation between rules and shared experience and culture. The law, devoid of compassion or cross-cultural conception, may unwittingly continue to perpetuate inequity.

This experience induced my interest in advocacy, and I decided to study law as a means of mediation between formal regulations and human complexity. I started to examine cases and policies of various legal systems and compare cross-border administrative practices and the role of cultural context in influencing legal results. The insights reinforced my belief that justice cannot be achieved in a vacuum, without considering both procedural learning and understanding social, cultural, and human aspects.

At Georgetown University Law Center, I would incorporate this view in classroom discussions and service-related efforts. Regardless of international law clinics, policy research, or pro bono advocacy, I would like to clarify how legal rules apply in various population groups and promote solutions to reflect the differences. My experiences on the border made me understand that justice cannot exist without a context, and advocacy can

only be effective when it builds upon lived situations. Adding this lens to Georgetown Law, I will enhance the community's perception of equity and inspire action that will bridge the gap between law and human experience.