

1. Genealogy

My ancestry can be traced from two distinct cultural backgrounds. My mother [REDACTED] is of direct Polish descent. She was born the daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in a concentration camp located in Falimbooster, Germany at the tail end of World War II. Little is known of the ancestry of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] because all records were destroyed while the Germans occupied Poland during the war.

My grandmother explained that at the end of the war Poland was devastated. The small family of three had the choice to immigrate to Brazil, England, or the United States of America. In 1949, The family boarded a ship bound for New York and arrived for their new life in America.

With the help of a relative, Victor [REDACTED], the family received transportation to Merrimack, New Hampshire from New York. Within one year, the family relocated to [REDACTED] New Hampshire and lived the next seven years in a number of apartment complexes in the city. In 1957, the [REDACTED] family bought a small house on the east side complete with a sizable back yard and enough room to accommodate the two sons, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and a daughter, [REDACTED], which had been born during the previous seven years. [REDACTED] has since passed and [REDACTED] is now retired and lives in the same house purchased in 1957 with her youngest son [REDACTED].

My father's side of the family is of Italian origin. My great grandfather Guiseppe Giuliano was born in Palermo, Sicily. He grew up in Sicily as a small landowner and cultivated olives on his farm. He married a young woman from Palermo by the name of Rosa. He had

three children with Rosa in Sicily -- Vito, Jessie, and Rose. He arrived in New York in 1911 looking for a new life for his family, and more importantly, for his children. Later that year he brought his family to America. Upon entering the country, a translation of the family name yielded a new spelling of Guiliano instead of the previous form Gimliano.

The Guiliano family moved into an Italian neighborhood at 240 East 150th Street. In 1914 [REDACTED] Guiliano, my grandfather, was born. When my grandfather reached the age of 13 in 1927, the family moved into an apartment complex at 429 East 149th Street on the corner of 3rd Avenue. The landlord was my father's older sister Rose who had recently married a conservatively wealthy railroad administrator. The entire family took up residency within the apartment building. My grandfather entered a trade school studying electrical systems upon completion of high school. At the age of 23, he married a young Sicilian by the name of [REDACTED]. He continued to live in the same apartment building for the next 13 years until the building was eventually razed to make way for newer housing projects.

In 1950, at the age of 36 [REDACTED] Guiliano moved his family to [REDACTED] Avenue in the Bronx. My father Joe was four years old at the time. He had an older sister named [REDACTED] who was 8 years old and a younger brother [REDACTED] of two years. A few years later, the last of [REDACTED] Guiliano's sons would be born, and he would be named after his father. My grandfather still lives in the same home he purchased back in 1950 and each of his children are presently married and raising children of their own.

2. Arriving in America

My ancestors each arrived in this country with a single objective -- they wanted their future families to have a better life than they had experienced. My mother and her parents immigrated to America for a new life and new surroundings. World War II left their homeland of Poland decimated. Before the war, the family endured a meager existence as farmers. However, the war brought a difficult change and a new, terrifying reality. Since my grandfather had been involved with the Polish army in his early twenties, the Germans immediately placed the entire family in a concentration camp during the takeover of Poland.

In the concentration camp, my mother of five years and her young parents endured many hardships. Everyday meant a new challenge. The family struggled to ration small amounts of food each and every day. After the war, the family was forced to leave Germany. Unable to return to the ravaged lands of Poland, the displaced immigrants searched for a country in which to settle. Very few countries at that time would accept immigrants with children and for this reason the family decided to venture to America.

My father and grandfather were born in America. My great-grandfather was born in Palermo, Sicily and arrived in America in 1911 at the age of 26. Guiseppe Giuliano left Italy with the intention of finding a better life for his family. He wanted the family to come to America and become educated. It was his dream that education would allow his future family to have a better life than the one he had known as a simple farmer. A short time after

arriving in America, my great-grandfather uprooted the other four members of the family from Sicily and brought them to New York City.

3. Advantages/Disadvantages

My Italian ancestors maintained an advantage that is inherent in their philosophical nature. That is, the Italian people believe very strongly in the family unit and the interplay of help that is expected. For this reason, my ancestors from Italy took advantage of their ethnicity and found refuge in an Italian neighborhood. Their choice of surroundings allowed much ease in communication with other Italians. The lack of a communication barrier eased the transition for my ancestors as they settled in their new-found country.

However beneficial the Italian language proved, it was also a hindrance outside of the neighborhood. The better jobs were not found in the Italian section, but in the surrounding areas. These jobs were not made available to the immigrants, especially those who were easily identified because of their language. For this reason, the younger children were encouraged *not* to speak in their native tongue, but to learn to speak English. My ancestors understood that this new country would be more tolerant of those people choosing to adapt to the language of the country in which they now lived.

My grandmother stated unequivocally that her ethnicity did not lend her immigrant family any advantages upon entering the new land. The Polish language proved to be a remarkable hindrance during the adjustment period shortly after arriving in America. She explained that few people spoke Polish and she understood very little English. Within one year of arriving in New York, the family moved to a

Polish section of [REDACTED] NH. However, my grandmother clarified for me that this new location was not the least bit helpful. She found little assistance from her native Polish neighbors. Surprisingly, more aid was offered by what she called "strangers," or those outside of her nationality.

4. Ethnic Advantages

Ethnic advantages can be viewed in many different settings and under varying conditions. I feel that the family situations that I have grown up under have shaped my views and attitudes considerably. The situational responses I exhibit can be attributed to my upbringing based upon my parents' ethnic background. I believe that I have developed a strong work ethic, a thrifty mindset, and also an above average spirit concerning product recycling and offbeat uses.

I describe myself as a person of Polish descent with a strong Italian heritage fixed within a mindframe culminating in perseverance. This ancestry affords me a strong sense of work ethic. The tenacity to work hard has instilled in me a motivation to struggle for lofty goals. In addition, I realize the importance of working toward these goals with a methodical, yet patient approach.

5. Entering Law Student

The foremost characteristic for being a good lawyer is a strong moral grounding. This sense of morality can be used in many ways as a basis for action within the law field. All other characteristics can have as their foundation this resolute, ethical guideline. Thus if the moral attitude is in good standing, then characteristics based on this outlook will further enhance that

ethical attitude. Another characteristic of great importance is one's ability to consider the facts as they relate to the law. Personal bias and emotional opinions are unimportant within the realm of the law. This idea must be understood and maintained if one is to be a good lawyer. The concern here is an understanding of the facts unclouded by personal feelings.

6. Future Lawyer

Upon reviewing the basic premise of this assignment, it appears that an important consideration of a lawyer is his ability to detach himself from his present and past attitudes. In other words, I must understand my past and how this affects what I think and how I act. This self-examination provides an initial awareness of the manner in which I have been molded over the years. This leads me to consider how I might function as a lawyer now that I have contemplated my ethnic background.

In other words, to represent a client effectively, the details of the past should not factor into actions made by the attorney on behalf of his client. Regardless of how one feels about the client personally, the attorney must remain within his moral framework. For one reason or another, disagreements between attorney and client can occur. With this in mind, the attorney must continue to realize that he is an instrument of the client. Therefore, if the client is represented within the bounds of the law, the attorney's responsibility is fulfilled. Emotional involvement in a case will merely serve to distract the attorney and render him ineffective.

The real question with this assignment should be phrased -- how or why will your cultural background affect your practice of

law? In my case, the answer is very clear and simple. I have not felt prejudiced or enraged because of my ethnicity. In addition, I tend to react in a reserved manner when I feel slighted. I take much of my life in stride and try not to dwell on actions by others. For these reasons, I don't feel that my ethnicity will affect my practice of law, at this point anyway.