



North West University

Hanny Kelaotswe

Although Kelaotswe originally wanted to study Pharmaceutical Studies, her application to Tshwane University was too late. She settled on studying law at North-West University in Mafeking, which was conveniently close to her home. Kelaotswe says the Law engaged her so completely that she cannot imagine studying anything else.

She was an excellent student. In 2012 she received the award from the Law Society of the Northern Provinces for the most outstanding student in the Civil



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Procedure course. She also was made a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society for being among the top 15% performers at the university. In her third year she earned herself the distinction of being the best performer. *"I was also given the honour of presenting a paper at the Annual Law Conference, alongside Judge Nkabinde of the Constitutional Court,"* says Kelaotswe. She appeared on the Deans' Merit List each year from second year. She earned herself 23 distinctions in aggregate during her LLB degree.

While Kelaotswe loved the atmosphere and freedom of University to study, learn and complete assignments, she is critical of the downside, which is the expense of studying, the peer pressure and the fact that you have to be thick-skinned to survive.

She is currently studying for her LLM in Labour Law and would like to clerk for a judge in the Constitutional Court in 2015.

In five years' time she would like to be an Advocate, completing her PhD in Law and in ten years' time, she would like to be a senior advocate. She hopes eventually to be a professor.

Kelaotswe is passionate about publishing articles on the law and in successfully completing her LLM. She does manage to find time to relax, shopping and going out with her friends and family to the movies.

Reabone Mokgosi

The desire to help others was always the prime motivation for Mokgosi to study law. *"Ever since I was a child I have always wanted to help my community, especially those who cannot help themselves,"* he says. *"So law was always my first choice in course of study. I would like to study economics at a later stage as I would eventually like to be a commercial lawyer. However I am currently doing a masters' degree in labour law."*

His desire to work hard at his studies paid off. For the last three years of his studies, he was on the Dean's Merit List. He was also awarded a certificate for being one of the top performers in his class. Studying law gave Mokgosi *"the chance to learn to develop my powers of reasoning. The law gives you the chance to be your*



Reabone Mokgosi

own person and use one's brain when confronted with difficult situations".

What Mokgosi loved about university life is that he felt it gave him the chance to stand on his own feet and to socialise with people who did not judge him but understood him and knew where he came from.

In five years Mokgosi sees himself as an admitted attorney at one of the big law firms in South Africa. In ten years' time he would like to be a partner in a law firm specialising in commercial and labour law.

When he is not studying, Mokgosi enjoys swimming and being involved in the Scout movement. He says his family and friends have been an invaluable support system.

Tanyaradzwa Major

Major is an international student from Zimbabwe. Now studying for her LLM, she originally intended to be a social worker. *"I had not considered law as a profession because I had never really had any exposure to it. But am glad that I decided to do it,"* she said.

She has discovered the Law is more than cramming cases and statutes, it is challenging hard work, but not without its rewards.

From first year, she worked extremely hard and won the prize of a laptop as top first year student in her faculty. She also made it onto the Dean's bursary list.

Major said she found she really enjoyed the study of law because it sharpened her mind, strengthened her understanding and helped her think more critically.

She threw herself into student life becoming a member of Students for Law and Social Justice and also became a tutor.

She enjoyed the social aspect of university life and got to know many people from different backgrounds. She did not take to group study as some students did not pull their weight. *"Working in a group takes a lot of teamwork and consideration,"* she said.

Major would like to serve articles and become *"an influential and powerful human rights lawyer"*. But she says it is really difficult for foreign students to get a job and serve articles, not matter how impressive their educational background it.

To relax, she likes reading, listening to music and travelling. She says her mother's support is the inspiration for her success.



Tanyaradzwa Major

Kgalalelo Petlele

Her innate belief in the justice system and the need to protect the rights of the prejudiced prompted Petlele to study law. She had also considered studying nursing but is pleased she opted for law instead.

"I am really intrigued by the developments in South African law and the way it adapts to this changing society," she says. *"Idealistically, my desire for studying law is rooted in my desire to help people and to help maintain order and build a successful democratic South Africa."*

In her final year of study, the Dean of North West University recognised her hard work and offered her a bursary for post-graduate study, which she is now doing part time, while serving articles with Legal Aid in GaRankua.

Petlele enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from diverse cultures while at



Kgalalelo Petlele

deems essential for professional people. She also says the support of all the lecturers at the North West University law faculty in Mafikeng has been invaluable. Kgalalelo believes the key to successful studying was planning her work ahead so that she did not fall behind and have to do course work at the last minute.

Sabina Lech

Watching crime and investigation programmes on television sparked Lech's interest in the law. *"Seeing justice being served gave me a sense of gratification and as a result I wanted to know a lot more about it. I have since discovered that*

university. She also enjoyed exam time, because it showed her that she could work under pressure. Petlele is ambitious and hopes in five years' time to have completed her degree in Commercial Law and have enrolled for another degree possibly in Tax Law. She also has aspirations to enrol for an MBA. *"In ten years' time, I would like to be a legal adviser or a commercial litigator in one of the big law firms. I would like to become a Judge one day,"* she says.

Her family and boyfriend have provided Petlele with the support she

the most fulfilling thing about law is that it has enabled me to overcome my fear of speaking in public through mock trials and moot courts," she says.

While law was her first choice of degree, she is still interested in medicine but feels that law is broad enough for her to venture into medicine through fields such as forensics. *"I suppose I could become a medical lawyer."*

Lech's hard work earned her a scholarship to study for her Masters Degree in Law, which she intends doing in International Human Rights Law. Her interest in Human Rights was sparked when she took part in university debates. She also took Moot Court as an elective module. She was chosen by the university to represent it at the 22nd African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, in Cape Town.

She loved university life as it helped her become independent and to make good friends. She enjoyed the lively conversations and formal debates. She admits that she found the work load quite arduous.

Sabina has decided to attend practical legal training on Potchefstroom campus this year as she wants to take what she has learned and apply it *"in a more prac-*



Sabina Lech

tical mode before entering into the work field". She plans to do her Masters next year and thereafter apply for articles in a firm where she will be able to practically apply her theoretical knowledge of the law.

"In the long run, I see myself as an established human rights lawyer," she says. *"Attending the Human Rights Moot Competition sparked my interest in this field."*

When she is not studying Lech runs marathons. Otherwise she spends time with her family and friends who have been supportive and encouraged her when the work load became overwhelming.