

Interview Assessment

Date: February 12, 2021

Subject: Research Interview with Paul Sheldon

Assessment:

I was given the opportunity to interview an accomplished lawyer who has the experience that is very uncommon. Mr. Sheldon started his law career in the military which was something that I didn't think existed. Mr. During Sheldon's time as a military personal lawyer, he encountered many strange cases at a very early point in his career, unlike law firms which only give new lawyers small settlement cases. During our interview, Mr. Sheldon told me about his various experiences as well as his current and past cases in which he was able to learn.

Mr. Sheldon has a unique approach to law school which I have never heard of and his approach reassured my goal to make it to law school. Mr. Sheldon didn't believe that law school was necessarily just for lawyers but he thought law school could be used in multiple ways. Mr. Sheldon talks about how law school graduates would come out of law school and use the skills they gained to start their own business and become entrepreneurs. This was at first strange to me but that was because I looked at the scenario as a definite but law school does teach skills that business entrepreneurs could use to become legally stable and financially profitable.

I also asked Mr. Sheldon about his first case as a lawyer for the military. Mr. Sheldon explained how the military does not take small steps to set lawyers up for success but they actually throw the new lawyers in the deep end by assigning them full cases from the start. I believed that the immediate implementation of new lawyers in harder cases will help them quickly develop skills and become proficient in trial. This was a new angle of law for me to understand and did encourage me to start trying harder law concepts so I can easily grasp the easier concepts.

The next subject Mr. Sheldon spoke about his most difficult client relationship in a case. Mr. Sheldon told me about a soldier that was caught distributing LSD to other soldiers and it was Mr. Sheldon's job to represent him in the court. The client wanted Mr. Sheldon to say that he was not distributing drugs in his unit because the real distributor gave the LSD to him making him the recipient

and not the distributor. The law does not differentiate between the middle man and the main distributor, so he would be convicted as guilty. Mr. Sheldon tried to explain to his client that the sentence would be greater if he went with that argument. The client insisted that he stuck with the middle man approach and Mr. Sheldon decided to respect the client's wishes and follow through with his argument. Mr. Sheldon was correct and the client was convicted guilty, but when it came to sentencing the jury believed that he was the middleman and decided to only dishonorably discharge him without a prison sentence. From this, I learned that it is always better to follow a client's wishes not because it is right but it is because they want it that way. I would still strongly suggest against the client's argument.