

Ryan Blackburn

Independent Study and Mentorship

Spiece 4B

29 September 2017

Prior Establishment - An Elected Official's Presence in the Private Sector

Interview Assessment 1

Name of Professional: Mr. Adam Plunk

Profession/Title: Practicing Attorney and Partner

Business/Company name: Plunk Smith

Date of Interview: 28 September 2017

In an attempt to better present an understanding of the private establishment of elected officials before considering running for office, I set out towards an at-length discussion with an established individual versed in both law and legislation. As I prepared for the interview with Mr. Plunk, I hoped to be able to learn more of what truly drives a connection with constituents and what is admired among business professional's post-secondary education in considering ascension to public office.

During this preparation, I believed that the interview process would be very rigid and to the point, only discussing specific questions I had developed beforehand. However, while talking with Mr. Plunk, I discovered many more curiosities I wished to satiate concerning not only his current standing, but also his past education leading him towards his current position. Mr. Plunk often described of his past endeavors with his concentration in public policy and internship with lobbyists in Washington, D.C.; as he suggested, such willful participation in a field of study leads to a greater passion for what one should pursue in the future.

In addition to the thought-provoking concepts on the origin of motivation in the professional field, the partner at Plunk Smith also underlined the importance of personal involvement with the community in order to gain a more comprehensive view on a field of study and a plethora of national issues. With Mr. Plunk and me both as members of the board at the YMCAs of Frisco and Plano, respectfully, we both connected on the values earned from such an experience, where he often advocated a closer relationship to the citizens of his community; through this, business professionals can begin expand connections with others and display a sense of philanthropy and true interest towards the general public. I strongly believe that, from this, I was able to glean just how significant of a standing an elected official must have with his community and the establishment of partnerships with others towards reaching public office.

In learning these critical lessons, I hope to work towards creating interest in governmental representation similar to that of Plunk -- by expanding the opportunities I have available to me today, I would be able to found a more resolute and active passion in public policy. The resources available to any American citizen - that of the local city government or potential internships with elected officials, for example - can help strengthen not only this interest in policy, but also in community action as well. Through the more widespread use of this knowledge, I can develop such an interest and further the participation of others in local, state, and national political debates.

In now understanding the pathway towards private sector establishment, greater public policy interest, and interaction with the community, I hope to further solidify the value behind an educated and intellectual elected official through communication with other professionals and direct my research towards the morality and effects of lobbying on representatives. From this, I hope to gain a more unbiased education on the processes and interactions associated with drafting legislature.