|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| uly 2, 2015

|  |
| --- |
| Frank, I hope this email finds you well. My name is Brian , I'm notsure if you're going to remember me but I attended a string of one on onesessions with you at the Rutgers counseling center back in 2012 during thespring semester and throughout the summer. First and foremost I want tocongratulate you on all of your accomplishments and new endeavors since welast spoke. Your decision to rejoin the military to help soldiers in needand make a difference is admirable to say the least. Hopefully I canrefresh your memory as to why I was going to see you in the first place; Iwas arrested off campus along with four other guys in February of 2012 forselling marijuana. The story was published in several papers including theStar Ledger and Daily Targum along with countless websites such as NJ.comwhich was incredibly embarrassing and trying for my family. Everyone elsewho was involved had their charges dropped or entered a PTI program andalso received no punishment from Rutgers. I however was looking at a fiveyear prison sentence with three years mandatory and was mislead by aRutgers Dean into believing I would only receive a one year suspension fromschool which ended up being a two year suspension. This was hard to swallowbecause no matter what extra curricular activity I participated in I alwaysmade sure to be a diligent student and was on the Dean's list everysemester. Along with these traumatic events I was dealing with a couplerecent deaths in the family, a broken ankle that the doctor thought neededsurgery at the time, and a girlfriend that left me for someone else.Needless to say this was probably one of the lowest and most depressingtimes of my life and a little tough to deal with for a 20 year old kid. Myparents recommended seeing a counselor to see if there was any way to helpme fight the suspension and help my court case; I have to admit I was veryskeptical at the time and did not exactly like the idea. Hindsight howeveris 20/20 and I'm very glad that I ended up going to see you, thanks forpersonally picking my case when you recognized my name from the newspaper.I didn't realize at the time how valuable some of the things actually werethat you recommended to me and how much they helped me through that time;some of the things I still practice to this day. Everything from therelationship advice, to suggesting I volunteer at Elijah's Promise, to thesimplest things such as staying on top of my hygiene and getting back intothe gym helped a lot. As dark and hopeless as the time seemed, many thingsturned out just fine. I eventually plead out to a year in county jail whichwas overturned on my court date and I was lucky enough to be sentenced tofour years probation. My ankle healed up just fine without the need ofsurgery and I moved on to other women and relationships throughout the pastfew years. I wasn't able to transfer enough credits to another school so Ieventually waited out my two year suspension and began taking summercourses in May of last year. With my conviction I am scarred with having afelony on my record for at least the foreseeable future if not the rest ofmy life which is very tough to deal with as it makes it impossible to getmany jobs. Eventually I got a part time job and then moved on to a fulltime job making about 50k yearly where I have been for the past year andsome change. I took night classes while working and finally finished up mydegree of a B.S. in Labor and Employment Relations this past May graduatingMagna Cum Laude and having departmental honors as well. I also got off ofprobation in a little over two years with good behavior and can hopefullyhave my felony expunged in four and a half years. Working and going toschool was not an easy thing to do but I was actually very happy at thetime because it beat being stuck in limbo for those couple years notprogressing towards anything. I'm actually leaving my current job next weekto take a once in a lifetime trip to Europe for 5 weeks and when I get backI do not plan on letting this felony stop me from finding a betteropportunity and getting a much better job. I apologize for the long windedemail but I thought you might like hearing how well things turned out.Above all else I just wanted to genuinely express my gratitude and send youa giant THANK YOU for everything. Best of luck with all of your futureendeavors.Sincerely,Brian  |

 |