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| uly 2, 2015   |  | | --- | | Frank,  I hope this email finds you well. My name is Brian , I'm not  sure if you're going to remember me but I attended a string of one on one  sessions with you at the Rutgers counseling center back in 2012 during the  spring semester and throughout the summer. First and foremost I want to  congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and new endeavors since we  last spoke. Your decision to rejoin the military to help soldiers in need  and make a difference is admirable to say the least. Hopefully I can  refresh your memory as to why I was going to see you in the first place; I  was arrested off campus along with four other guys in February of 2012 for  selling marijuana. The story was published in several papers including the  Star Ledger and Daily Targum along with countless websites such as NJ.com  which was incredibly embarrassing and trying for my family. Everyone else  who was involved had their charges dropped or entered a PTI program and  also received no punishment from Rutgers. I however was looking at a five  year prison sentence with three years mandatory and was mislead by a  Rutgers Dean into believing I would only receive a one year suspension from  school which ended up being a two year suspension. This was hard to swallow  because no matter what extra curricular activity I participated in I always  made sure to be a diligent student and was on the Dean's list every  semester. Along with these traumatic events I was dealing with a couple  recent deaths in the family, a broken ankle that the doctor thought needed  surgery at the time, and a girlfriend that left me for someone else.  Needless to say this was probably one of the lowest and most depressing  times of my life and a little tough to deal with for a 20 year old kid. My  parents recommended seeing a counselor to see if there was any way to help  me fight the suspension and help my court case; I have to admit I was very  skeptical at the time and did not exactly like the idea. Hindsight however  is 20/20 and I'm very glad that I ended up going to see you, thanks for  personally 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 were  that 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 the  relationship advice, to suggesting I volunteer at Elijah's Promise, to the  simplest things such as staying on top of my hygiene and getting back into  the gym helped a lot. As dark and hopeless as the time seemed, many things  turned out just fine. I eventually plead out to a year in county jail which  was overturned on my court date and I was lucky enough to be sentenced to  four years probation. My ankle healed up just fine without the need of  surgery and I moved on to other women and relationships throughout the past  few years. I wasn't able to transfer enough credits to another school so I  eventually waited out my two year suspension and began taking summer  courses in May of last year. With my conviction I am scarred with having a  felony on my record for at least the foreseeable future if not the rest of  my life which is very tough to deal with as it makes it impossible to get  many jobs. Eventually I got a part time job and then moved on to a full  time job making about 50k yearly where I have been for the past year and  some change. I took night classes while working and finally finished up my  degree of a B.S. in Labor and Employment Relations this past May graduating  Magna Cum Laude and having departmental honors as well. I also got off of  probation in a little over two years with good behavior and can hopefully  have my felony expunged in four and a half years. Working and going to  school was not an easy thing to do but I was actually very happy at the  time because it beat being stuck in limbo for those couple years not  progressing towards anything. I'm actually leaving my current job next week  to take a once in a lifetime trip to Europe for 5 weeks and when I get back  I do not plan on letting this felony stop me from finding a better  opportunity and getting a much better job. I apologize for the long winded  email 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 you  a giant THANK YOU for everything. Best of luck with all of your future  endeavors.  Sincerely,  Brian | |