



The first thing you need to know about Roberto (pictured left) is that he doesn't believe in luck. Luck is for people who have not prepared. It's for people that cross their fingers and hope for the best as they fly by the seat of their pants. If Roberto ever wishes you luck, you should be very, very scared. I tell you this because it helps describe Roberto as a person.

He is nuanced, thoughtful, and often quite terrifying.

I met Roberto in my first job interview out of college. I had two fine arts degrees and was applying for a job in audit. If I'm being honest, I had no idea what an auditor did, I just wanted a job until I could apply to law school. Roberto spent our interview barely looking at me and constantly glancing at his phone while the other interviewer took the lead. I was scared out of my mind. This man knew I was a fraud just from looking at me.

As the interview was coming to an end, the second interviewer asked me if I had any questions. At the time, I wanted to grab my jacket, get out of there, and chain smoke a pack of cigarettes (I do not smoke). Instead, I looked at Roberto and I asked him, "What reservations do you have about me?" I think that was the first time he looked me in the eye.

After a lengthy silence, Roberto looked at me and told me directly: "I'm worried you're going to leave this job. I'm worried you won't dedicate yourself to this because you want to go to law school." It felt like this man was reading my mind. I gathered my composure and responded that if he gave me a chance, I would be the best auditor he had ever worked with and that I would stay as long as he wanted me to.

To make a long story short, Roberto believed in me and called me five minutes after my interview to hire me. He gave me a chance and I knew I couldn't let him down. Instead of going

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straight to law school, I took the job with Roberto, where I reported to him for four years until he was promoted to another position.

Despite the rocky start to our relationship, Roberto remains my closest mentor. As he was leaving the audit team, I sat down with him and told him he was right, I did want to go to law school. Instead of gloating, Roberto did everything to help me succeed. He gave me vacation time for me to study for the LSAT, he wrote me what I assume was a killer letter of recommendation, and he helped to create a part-time position for me during law school.

Roberto and I talk on a weekly basis about our frustrations and successes. We talk about what drives us and what we need to do next. It's a give and take relationship. Sometimes he gives and I take, and other times it's reversed. He has praised me when I deserved it and has given me harsh feedback when I earned it. All of this has been to help me become the best version of myself. I am still a work in progress, but with Roberto's help I will continue to work on myself so that I can strive for success, not just luck.