Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was known for his amazing courage in standing up for and facing inequalities. This was an inspiration to people and would continue to be an inspiration for decades to come.

An inequality in today's society that I strongly feel relates to me is the fact that women are not treated equally to men when it comes to working a professional job. Growing up, I have always been interested in pursuing a career in the law. Recorded in 2020, the percentage of women working as attorneys is thirty-seven point four percent, compared to sixty-six point six percent male attorneys. Women are slowly, but surely increasing their presence in the legal field. Many people have an idea that men are more suited to be lawyers. According to a popular blog, Ms. J.D., there are four main reasons for the major gaps between the percentages provided above: 1. Traditional sexual stereotype or gender discrimination; 2. Work-life balance; 3. Sexual harassment; and 4. Gender-wage gap (Smithey). To further explain these ideas, there are beliefs dating back decades that women have too many emotions to handle a courtroom and that women do not have the time to be effective lawyers because they are responsible for taking care of their children. Sadly, it is common for men in power to take advantage of women in a lower position of power. Further, male lawyers are historically paid more than female lawyers.

While this is a problem much larger than me, there are some ways I can help with this situation. Steubenville High School has a small but mighty mock trial team. To help influence women to join the field, I could make social media posts, posters, or simply spread the word of the mock trial team to my peers. I could also inform women about the percentages mentioned earlier with the goal to find females who are interested in the law but scared to commit to this profession. Knowing that someone is going through the same struggles as you makes you feel like you actually have a reasonable shot at succeeding.

Without my role models, I would have been too scared to try and involve myself. Both of my parents are attorneys, so growing up in this environment has helped me to see and understand the injustices of the law industry. I have seen both of my parents work incredibly hard, but my mother has shown me how much harder women have to work. My mother manages to keep the house together, cook dinner, make sure all three of her children are where they need to be, and still works to be the absolute best attorney she is able to be. Seeing her, Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and Arabella Mansfield, the first female lawyer in the United States has inspired me. Knowing that these women have accomplished my goals while facing inequalities makes it seem like I am capable. They make it seem like my goal of being the best lawyer, out of both males and females, in my specialty, is a goal I will be able to accomplish.

Works Cited:

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Fighting Against Injustice