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### The Role of Law in America

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary.” This was stated by James Madison in the Federalist Papers. An intriguing thought, dating back to 1788, that still applies today. It is evident that some intellectuals at the time were already aware of the importance that our government and law would have on society. Law has shaped our society, distributed justice, created social norms and ethics.

When taking the time to reflect, it becomes apparent how many societal norms have come from law. With such clearly outlined rules, the law has the ability to shape behavior and affect everyday interactions. This can include how we act in public, how we treat others (especially those of authority), and inclusivity. For example, in Pennsylvania there is a law that mandates school attendance. This requires children ages six to eighteen to attend school. With this law in place, it is normal in our country for kids to go to school and be educated. However in some countries such as South Sudan, education is not mandated so it would not be a societal norm or expectation for children to be educated there.

Law has also distributed so much justice to those seeking it in our country. To expand on James Madison’s idea, people are constantly being wronged, and there are always violations of law. It is such a beautiful part of our country, that when you are wronged, justice can and will be served. Good people have bad things happen to them. It is the sad truth. But the positive side of this is because we have law, there will be rightful consequences for those who violate rules.

Even with all of our history, America is a young country. We are still building the country as we go. One value this country was originally established under is liberty and justice for all. Law has stood the test of time and laid the foundations of our beautiful country.