

Scholarship Statement

Since elementary school, I knew I would attend the Florida State University (FSU) to obtain my Bachelor's Degree. My love for FSU was not engrained in me by my family or friends but I knew I had a calling toward being a Seminole. After I received my acceptance letter and committed to attending the Florida State University, my mother informed me that she had planned to attend FSU for her undergraduate degree, however, she chose not to go because she was pregnant with me and decided to be a full-time mother. After being informed of this, I made it my mission to do exceptionally well in my academics and make my mother proud. During my sophomore year of my undergraduate studies, I decided that I wanted to attend law school and pursue a Juris Doctorate degree. In order to learn more about law school, and the legal career field as a whole, I applied for and attended the one month long Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates program hosted by the Florida State University College of Law. Throughout the program, I was immersed in legal classes, built a network with prominent attorneys and law students, and made lifelong friends. Through this program, I also learned the importance of fighting for the rights of our fellow citizens. As citizens, we have the right to equality, right to freedom, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, right to constitutional remedies, right to privacy, and many more. Fighting for the rights of others allows our citizens the fundamental principles of what it means to be American.

Attending the Summer for Undergraduates program solidified my choice to pursue a legal career

and I relayed my decision to my mother. Again, she confided in me one of her childhood dreams; to become an attorney. After my mother shared this revelation with me, I would jokingly tell people that my mother's childhood desires were so strong that they manifested themselves into her first-born child. However, fulfilling her dream is not the reason as to why I want to attend law school. I want to fulfill my dream of becoming an attorney to help people. I know it is a cliché answer, but despite that, I have always felt a sense of duty to support others that are in need of assistance. In December of 2018, I graduated Cum Laude from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with a minor in Law Enforcement Intelligence. I received four law school acceptance letters and have chosen to pursue my Juris Doctor degree at the Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, Florida.

My life experiences have led me to the decision to practice Family Law, specifically handling child protection and juvenile subject matters. For the majority of my existence, my biological father has not been in my life due to his past and current incarceration. When I was just under two years old, my father was sentenced to serve a ten-year prison sentence. He was released from prison early and was in my life for my middle school years, but was sentenced to serve an additional fifteen years in prison right before I entered high school; the years in which a young man needs his father the most. Despite this, I was surrounded by men that I could look up to as mentors and role models, including my step-father, youth pastor, and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Instructor. I learned how impactful a positive role model can be and the difference they can make in someone's life. By practicing Family Law and giving a voice to children and youth, I hope to exemplify that the circumstances of life do not have to define a person. A person should define themselves and accomplish the goals they set in life. In pursuing

this goal, I also want to mentor young black men and volunteer in my community. As an undergraduate student, I completed 214 service hours through the Damayan Garden Project and the Florida Department of Health, and I will continue to serve and uplift the community I reside in. Furthermore, I want to serve my community by serving my country. Upon completing law school, I will commission into the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps Officer. While in the U.S. Air Force, I will use the skills I have learned throughout my journey to defend and support my fellow Airmen. My career goal is to take my legal experiences into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and become a General Attorney. Through acquiring my Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science with a minor in Law Enforcement Intelligence, I understand the importance of the legality of legislation and the interworking of our governmental process.