

Meet Altimease Lowe



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When you meet Altimease Lowe, you are immediately struck by her contagious smile and friendly nature. After you get to know her better, you’re impressed with her determination, attitude, and passion for advocacy.

Altimease became interested in law school through her involvement in student government at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia.

“Our SGA was very involved in the university process, and I enjoyed being an advocate for students. I realized I wanted a career where I could be an advocate. Law school is the perfect avenue for that.”

Altimease’s degree in mass communications and her SGA experience also helped hone the persuasive writing and presentation skills necessary for law school.

After taking the LSAT, Altimease received an email from Bowen introducing her to the school and prompting her to investigate further. She was encouraged that Bowen’s core values—access to justice, public service, and professionalism—aligned closely with her own values. As a lifetime member of 4-H, she holds a Master 4-H status through her participation in the National 4-H Conference and has always been focused on public service and civic engagement.

Despite having never visited Little Rock, Altimease came for a tour. After meeting with then Assistant Dean Matt Kerns, she paid her seat deposit that day.

“It all started with an email that I might have otherwise overlooked,” she said.

Altimease arrived knowing no one, with no family in Little Rock. Relocating wasn’t a deterrent though, as her family moved a few times while her father was in the Navy.

When she started law school, she wanted to practice family law, or perhaps tax and property law. The latter interest was sparked by her mother, who has a career with the IRS.

However, a clerkship with the Arkansas Public Defender Commission uncovered Altimease’s passion for criminal law.

“My supervising attorney, Jackie Wright, explained that a lot of her job is relational-building trust with her clients and their trust in her as their advocate,” Altimease

said. "I saw that in action in the client meetings I attended. I'm very much a people person, and the relational aspect of criminal law aligns with my personality."

Altimease also points to her Race & the Criminal Justice System course as a touchpoint. While the class dealt with a practice area she was already passionate about, it also deepened her understanding of the field.

"Valerie Kelly, the instructor, used engaging and thought-provoking examples that opened up many considerations for me," she explained. "The class had insightful conversations about the history and background of criminal law in the United States and how race impacts various aspects of the system."

During her time at Bowen, Altimease has also clerked at Friday, Eldredge & Clark and at Gill Ragon Owen. This semester, she's clerking in the Pulaski County Public Defender's Office.

Outside the classroom, Altimease is a member of Delta Theta Phi and is president of the Bowen chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

Bowen's BLSA chapter hosts law school events for students, participates in community outreach, and reaches out to future law students. They've just finished a food and clothing drive to make sure Little Rock citizens in need had enough over the holidays. They also hosted their annual pre-law boot camp for minority students, which is always popular. This year, the event was held virtually. Sections include study tips, LSAT guidance, and a mock law school class.

"Professor Silverstein did our mock class this year, and it reminded me of being in his contracts class my first semester of law school," Altimease said. "It was probably the most exciting class I've ever had in higher ed."

Altimease says her involvement in BLSA has been one of her favorite experiences at Bowen.

"Our members have established a

family, and the group has become my home away from home. In addition, I've had an opportunity to grow as a leader and expand my comfort zone."

Part of that growth was serving as the Director of Communications for BLSA's Southwest Regional Board last year. Along with the opportunity to network with other law students and travel across the region, Altimease used her mass communication skills in redesigning the regional board's website and creating promotional materials, including the program for the regional conference and banquet. In 2019, Altimease planned the region's pre-law symposium, which was held at Bowen.

All that planning experience will be put to good use. Altimease is currently planning the BLSA chapter's virtual scholarship gala for April 2021. This year's banquet was canceled due to the pandemic.

In addition, as symposium editor for Bowen's law review, Altimease is planning the spring 2021 symposium, which will be virtual. The topic is voting and elections, focusing on issues surrounding state and federal election laws.

Altimease will also be finishing her final semester of law school, including her experiential learning requirement. She'll be working in Bowen's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, a choice her mother's career inspired.

As a dedicated and passionate student, Altimease said there's one extracurricular thing she's had to learn, and she's eager to pass her advice to future law students.

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Altimease has set aside time this semester to pursue hobbies she missed in previous semesters. She started modern dance classes, and she's picked up her

crochet hook again.

"It's relaxing to turn off the analytical side of my brain and be creative."

She's also starting to consider life after Bowen. Whether she stays in Little Rock or winds up further from home, she's certain what she wants to do.

"I want to practice in criminal law, either side. While I have more of a heart for defense, prosecution is also important—especially progressive prosecution. Either way, I want to play a role in promoting fairness and justice within the criminal justice system."