



Meet Lisa Roam



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Lisa Roam is a second-year student at the UA Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

She chose Bowen because of its core values—access to justice, public service, and professionalism. Like many Bowen students, she has a personal story that exemplifies those values for her.

“While I was working as a career coach at Dumas High School, I had a student come into my office with an amazing ACT score, wonderful manners, and a heavy heart,” she says. “He wanted to go to college but his parents were undocumented and he didn’t want to risk separating his family by disclosing his personal information on applications. I felt frustrated and guilty because he was just a kid that wanted to learn, and I didn’t know how to help him.”

That student, and his choice of family over education, resonated with Lisa, and she decided to go to law school. She knew it would be difficult but decided she could be happy and comfortable, or she could be happy and make a difference.

Her husband, an Arkansas State Trooper, applied for a transfer to Troop A so Lisa could go to Bowen. “He had already applied for a transfer to Fort Smith, so we could be close to family, but after some difficult conversations he encouraged me to take the chance.”

Lisa finished her undergraduate degrees in criminal justice and political science at UA Fort Smith. She was active on campus. She was Student Body President for two years and helped

start Lions R.O.A.R. – reaching out and advocating responsibility. One Lions

R.O.A.R. project was the Spring Break Solo Cup Project to increase awareness of over-drinking. “Students poured what they thought was one shot of alcohol into a red solo cup, and then we poured the water into actual shot glasses so they could be aware of how much alcohol they were really serving when they mixed their own drinks.”

She also served as Cub Camp Chair for freshman orientation, was a residential assistant for two years, and was the Director and Activities Chair for the Campus Activities Board. It’s no surprise that Lisa was named Student Leader of the Year.

Lisa has continued that pace at Bowen. This year she is the treasurer of both the Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA) and the student division of the Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers (AAWL).

Lisa is also working in Bowen’s admissions office as a student ambassador and for the Center for Arkansas Legal Services as one of their Pro Bono Coordinators.

This past spring, Lisa joined Arkansas Legal Aid for Spring Break on the Road to Justice, helping create wills, deeds, and power of attorney documents in senior communities. “It was an amazing experience,” she said. “Clients showed me photos of their family after I finished their documents. I was able to work with other Bowen students and meet Fayetteville law students, and the practical experience helped in class.”

She says her favorite class so far has been Torts with Professor Phillip Oliver. “He does a great job of creating memorable hypos. Every Bowen alumni I talk to asks if he still tells Jack Daniels hypos.”

This summer, Lisa clerked as an AmeriCorps Veteran JD to assist low income veterans with their civil issues. Attorneys work pro bono with veterans at the Veteran’s Day Treatment Center. Lisa would help the attorneys at those events and would also help draft veteran documents mostly in areas of divorce, record sealing, child support, and she also had to scan through VA health documents for service connectors in VA benefits applications.

Lisa’s career goals are influenced by her experiences, both past and present. “I’d like to work with vulnerable populations like our elderly, veterans, or immigrants. I will always remember that student’s sacrifice of his dreams for his family’s safety and the frustration of not knowing how to help. That is what pushes me.”