



**First and last name:**

Raven Perry-Beach

**VLS degree(s) and class year(s):**

JD'07

**What is your vision for VLS in the next five years?**

My vision for the next five years is a focus on diversity and inclusion. My recruitment and acceptance into VLGS is a prime example of how representation in academic and professional settings is vital. The opportunities afforded by the law school were introduced to me by a dean with a like mind and from a similar background. This line of recruitment is what attracted me to the school. Once I got there, I could learn with people from various backgrounds bringing differing perspectives into the conversation.

**What skills do you bring to the VLSAA to accomplish these priorities?**

I am an effective communicator and a strategic planner - both of these skills are extremely important. I enjoy learning from the perspectives and experiences of people whose lives may differ significantly from mine. Putting our minds together, we create a plan to be intentional about shaping a diverse and inclusive environment.

**How would you galvanize the energy and enthusiasm of alumni to increase participation in VLS events and giving?**

To galvanize energy and enthusiasm for participation and giving, I would advise the school to tap into people's sense of ownership. Remind alumni how VLGS helped shape their lives. Appeals should use real people with real stories to stroke the desire to help students still on their journey. Highlight the purpose and real-life applications of the research done at the school. Events should feel like coming home and generate a feeling of awe of the great strides the school is making and invite visitors to be a part of the future.

**List and describe your alumni service.**

Admittedly, my alumni service has been limited over the years. My participation consisted of having attended a few alumni gatherings and making financial contributions. I have more to offer which is why I am seeking a position on the alumni board of directors. Through this appointment, I hope to share my skill as a critical thinker and help VLGS by bringing fresh eyes to committees as goals and objectives are being shaped.

**List your activities as a VLS student.**

During my time at VLGS, I served as a student ambassador, president of the Black Law Students Association, and as a mentor for Academic Success under the leadership of Ellen Swain. Each activity brought invaluable lessons and added tremendously to my law school experience.

**List any appropriate professional and community activities, and please describe how that experience would serve you as a board member.**

I am the immediate past-president of the Madison County Volunteers Lawyers Program and have served with the organization for six years. I also serve as vice-chair of the Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Program; a grassroots non-profit focused on reducing recidivism. During my stint in Nashville, Tennessee, I was a volunteer judge for the Davidson County Youth Court.

All three of these positions allow me to serve underserved and underrepresented communities. I have grown comfortable with stepping out of my comfort zone to take an unfiltered look at my community and how I can make a difference. It is a skill set that would be of value to VLSAA.

Other community activities include Leadership Huntsville (Alabama), the Junior League of Huntsville-Madison County, and the Monrovia Middle School Parent Teacher Association.

**Having reviewed the standing committees on the VLSAA Board, which committee(s) would you choose to serve on and why?**

I am interested in serving on the Regional Groups and Mentoring committees. Prior to relocating to Huntsville, Alabama, I lived in Nashville, Tennessee, for seven years. While I saw an abundance of social and networking opportunities in places like D.C., those things appear to be virtually non-existent in the South. Creating opportunities for more alumni gatherings would facilitate the goal of connecting VLS alums and providing opportunities to students who anticipate practicing in the Southern Region.

**Discuss whether you have the resources and ability to make the board a priority over the next three years.**

I'm fully committed to fulfilling my obligations as a Board Director pursuant to the stated bylaws if elected to this position.