

ELIZABETH PENDERGRASS
SPRING 2023 SIBBERSON FINALIST – SCHOOL OF APPLIED STUDIES

Elizabeth is graduating with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice and minors in Leadership Studies and Legal Studies. She will pursue a Juris Doctorate starting next fall. Her plan to pursue a profession as an attorney is a steppingstone toward the goal of becoming a judge, with dreams as lofty as the supreme court. This interest sprouted during her formative years by participating in Moot Court during high school and taking interest in dramas such as Criminal Minds. She has continued to cultivate this interest during her collegiate career working at a local law firm while attending school.

During her time at Washburn, she has participated in the Leadership Institute. Positions include Campus Engagement Student Director and Scholarship Interview Day Team Lead. She has been involved in the First Year Experience Peer Educator organization, and was a Senior Peer Educator. For her senior year she was the First Year Experience Intern. During her involvement with the Leadership Institute, she has volunteered in several activities including clean-up of Shunga Creek Park and at the Children's Discovery Center, time at the Ronald McDonald House and landscaping at Pine Ridge Prep.

Elizabeth was chosen as one of 20 students to participate in the Brenneman Series during the spring semester of her junior year on campus. Learning from a prominent Alumnus and CEO of several companies gave her time for self-reflection, teaching her about philanthropy, facilitating change and personal growth. She has been engaged in the Criminal Justice Association for four years, three of those years as the treasurer and serving as president during her senior year. She was awarded the Criminal Justice Scholarship for being the top student in the department.

She has been fortunate to have learning opportunities traveling abroad. For an International Education Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE) she traveled to Geneva Switzerland where she competed in a case study competition. She had the opportunity to travel to France for a Women and World War II history course. She has two Leadership WTE's from her LE 400 and 301 courses where she engaged in change projects on campus and in her community. She also has completed a Scholarly and Creative WTE through her case study competition where they researched maternal mortality rates in South Sudan.

She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta honors society, having served as treasurer and is in the Phi Kappa Phi honors society. She has been on the Presidents list every semester of her undergraduate career.

Scholarships received during her time at Washburn include the Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship, Bowman Scholarship, Hodges Scholarship, Criminal Justice Scholarship, Hummer WEA Scholarship, FYE Peer Educator Scholarship, Lavern and Mabel Henderson Scholarship, Leadership Institute Scholarship, WTE International Scholarship, Geneva Seybold Endowment Scholarship, Noller Ford WEA Scholarship, Boyles Family Scholarship, Brenneman Series Scholarship, Heim Criminal Justice Scholarship – WEA, Heaton Leadership Scholarship, Pinegar Leadership Scholarship, Dr. Kerle Scholarship for Criminal Justice, and the Leadership Ball Scholarship WEA.