

Lilly Krause

## Personal Statement

Growing up as a young girl, you are told to remain prim and proper; to keep your voice down to not interrupt when someone more important is speaking. As a child, I was often given nicknames and negative titles for my outspoken demeanor and stubbornly argumentative tone. However, the one that always stuck with me was the statement that “One day, you’re going to make a great lawyer.” My minimal knowledge of this profession was credited to the film *Legally Blonde*, and I sure thought Elle Woods was the greatest lawyer to ever walk the earth; she was just as chatty as me.

As I got older, I began to wonder why not as many kids had their awesome “stay-at-home dads” pick them up from school, or why my mother didn’t come home until six in her business suit. I wondered why my sisters and I had played basketball and flag football, and why the other boys thought it was wrong that we liked something that “was only for guys to be good at.” I wondered why it felt so bad to be a head taller than everyone else in my classes because that was for boys. And when I continued to chat about becoming the best lawyer in the world, I wondered why the response I got was a sympathetic “good for you.”

Looking back, I realized that I grew up with the privilege of having a different-looking family structure than others. My mother was the breadwinner. She instilled in me and my sisters how to remain confident and unapologetically ourselves in male-dominated fields as she had. She encouraged me to love the extracurriculars I had passion for and to go as far with them as possible. Her encouragement led me to new leadership in my high school years, as Treasurer of

the Drama Department and an active member of the student government board. She taught us the importance of balancing our interests and stepping our feet into everything, which is why in college, I focus on my studies in Political Science and Editing, Writing, and Media, but also I promote women in sports through my involvement in The NoleZone; a student organization focused on increasing student interaction with our sports teams on campus. All of which allow me to explore all of my passions in writing, political involvement, and supporting women in male-dominated fields. Most importantly, my mother taught me the significance of relying on fellow women for support, which I have found as a member of the Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega. Just as my mother motivated me to become the woman I am today, the women in this Panhellenic organization have supported me to strive for more and to become a better version of myself. With their encouragement, I have been selected to the leadership positions of Foundations Ambassador (Scholarship Chair) and Sisterhood Support Team Leader.

I have found so much strength and experience through learning the lesson of becoming comfortable being uncomfortable. I know now more than ever that the passion I want to pursue is attending law school, and the lessons that I have learned both from my mother and through my involvement as a student at Florida State University will ensure that my hardwork and persistence will not go unnoticed.