

Denise Beamer: A Voice For Others



Denise Beamer ('09) has made many choices in her life and career through a very distinct lens: how to make a difference and be a voice for others. So her latest choice – to run for election on March 1st to the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division – comes as no surprise.

Beamer's desire to be a voice for others began as a child growing up in West Palm Beach. Her parents had immigrated from South Korea and worked hard running a small business while continuously adjusting to a new country, a new culture and unfamiliar business practices. "As a young person I had to handle things that other kids didn't have to,"

Beamer says, recalling how at times she played a role assisting her parents as they sorted through a variety of business and cultural matters. "And seeing some of the things my parents faced made me realize I wanted to make sure I could always be a voice for others."

In those years Beamer also learned the importance of serving others, thanks to her love for playing the violin – and her father. "My dad was committed to community service," she says, "so he would take me to visit nursing homes on numerous holidays and I would play the violin for residents. Today I understand and so appreciate that experience and what he was teaching me. And it's something I'm hoping to pass along to my own daughter as she grows up."

Although Beamer had wanted to become a lawyer since she was a child, she temporarily placed that goal on hold after graduating from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Business Administration – when she chose to spend a year teaching English in Seoul. "I had spent many summers in South Korea as a child, but I wanted to fully experience that nation as an adult," she explains.

When that year in her parents' homeland came to a close, Beamer returned to the United States and continued to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer. That's when Barry Law School caught her eye. "I chose Barry because I was so impressed with the mission statement, the legal curriculum and the important practical skills offered to law students," she says.

As a student at Barry Law, Beamer became very actively involved in Moot Court and other competitive student activities. She placed second place in the First Year's Moot-On Competition, became Chief Justice of the Moot Court Honors Board, participated in the ABA Trial Advocacy Competition and was a regional semi-finalist in the AAJ Trial Advocacy Competition. She also was a Book Award Recipient for Legal Research & Writing II and part of a national championship effort that earned "Best Advocate" Award.

Beamer credits those competitions, along with her experiences in Barry Law classrooms, as vital ingredients in helping her prepare for a successful legal career. "At Barry, I developed a number of close relationships with faculty who became very significant mentors," she says. "Plus, the coaches on Moot Court and the Trial teams were practicing lawyers in Orlando who taught me an incredible amount and helped make me the lawyer I am today," she says. "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for the great coaches, faculty and mentors I encountered at Barry."

"I am so grateful to Barry," she continues, "that I've felt it's important to give back ... as a president of the Barry Alumni Chapter and as a Trial Team coach myself." As an alumna, Beamer has helped guide

Barry student mock trial teams to two national championships and a first place at The Florida Bar Chester Bedell Mock Trial Competition. “I’m honored to have worked so intensely with Barry students, to have traveled with them, coached them in advocacy skills and mentored them professionally,” she says. “And many of those students and coaching colleagues are among my close circle of friends today.”



After graduating from Barry Law and passing the Florida bar, Beamer started her legal career as a prosecutor in the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office. After serving two years there as Assistant State Attorney, she returned to Orlando to become the Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of Florida’s Attorney General.

“I really love what I do,” Beamer says, “protecting people who don’t necessarily have a voice – whether they are senior citizens, military veterans or ordinary Florida citizens.” In her role, Beamer conducts investigations and enforcement actions involving the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, the Telemarketing Sales Rule, timeshare resale fraud legislation, advertising laws, and other consumer-protection rules and regulations. Additionally, Beamer works with numerous federal, state and regional law enforcement agencies. For her efforts, Beamer received the Consumer Protection Division’s Significant Achievement award in 2016.

Beamer has also chosen to be very actively involved in regional legal organizations. “I am proud to have served the legal community in various positions,” she says. She has been an Attorney Member of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Florida Bar Annual Convention and is a graduate of the third class of the Florida Bar Leadership Academy. Additionally, she has served as a Guardian Ad Litem, as Director, Community Service Chair of the Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association, and a member of the Orange County Bar Association’s Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She was even appointed to the South Korean presidential consultative body for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, serving for three years as a Council Member of the National Unification Advisory Council.

Now, Beamer has chosen to throw her hat into the ring for one of five open seats on the Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors. She is one of twelve lawyers who are running for election, which will be decided by division members in Bar elections this spring.

Beamer’s election platform also echoes her lifelong pursuit of giving voice to others. “Our time is now,” she states in her campaign summary. “Our time to connect, our time to be heard, and our time to thrive.”

“We, as young lawyers, are The Florida Bar’s future,” she continues, “and I believe the Young Lawyers Division should make our lives and practices better, whether it is helping young lawyers in their transition from law school to the practice of law, connecting mentors with young lawyers or providing opportunities for service and involvement.”

If elected, Beamer promises to be a representative who will focus on issues that affect young lawyers, such as student loan reform. “Student loan debt burdens us, our legal practice, and our families,” she says. “It affects the decisions we make and touches almost every aspect of our lives.”

Beamer believes the impact of student loan debt should be examined and brought to light within The Florida Bar, resulting in a meaningful conversation. “We need to be heard about its impact and connect with other young lawyers throughout the state regarding potential reform,” she says.

If elected to the Board of Governors, Beamer concludes, “I intend to be this voice for young lawyers.”

Not a surprising intention from someone seeking to be a voice for others in all she does in her life and career.