

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Press Releases

Office of Communication

12-22-2021

From the "Ouachitonian": Allyson Oliver

Gracen Goudy

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Goudy, Gracen and Ouachita News Bureau, "From the "Ouachitonian": Allyson Oliver" (2021). *Press Releases*. 1140.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/1140

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

From the "Ouachitonian": Allyson Oliver



By Gracen Goudy

December 22, 2021

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – *Previously published in the 2021 Ouachitonian yearbook*

With the unknowns that carried into the summer, junior political science and psychology major Allyson Oliver from Conway wondered if the internship she had in place would carry through. She had the privilege to intern in the public affairs office of Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. Fortunately, Oliver's experience was only delayed a month due to the pandemic and was virtual only a portion of the time.

"We helped stuff envelopes with newsletters, helped type up letters of congratulations for people who did important things and we helped encode voice mails," Oliver said. "They deal with anything constituency related but also do outreach. All the events had to be virtual, so I helped put on an elders abuse prevention event and some veteran consumer protection events."

Not only did the pandemic affect the gathering of people when it came to the work of the attorney general's office, but it also affected their daily work. Oliver received many usual phone calls dealing with rent and landlord situations, but the number of phone calls increased tremendously when it came to the

pandemic. The office averaged about 500 calls a week before COVID-19 then increased to an average of 2,000 calls a week.

“The [first] stimulus check was around that time, so people were confused about that,” Oliver said.

“People couldn’t pay rent because they were laid off from the pandemic, so they were wondering what their rights were if they had to pay rent. A lot of what they do is consumer protection,” Oliver continued.

“Because of COVID-19, more people were being taken advantage of, so price gouging was a huge thing. At the beginning of the pandemic, there were companies marking up toilet paper eight times what they could. They had to take legal action against these people who were price gouging.”

Oliver desired to go into law, but she still enjoyed her experience within the public affairs department. She was grateful for the connections she was able to make.

“I enjoyed learning more about what the attorney general does, because she really wears a lot of hats,” Oliver said. “Rutledge’s official title is the legal counsel for the state of Arkansas. She had a whole team of attorneys and lawyers who do a lot of legal stuff. I was shocked about how much the attorney general does that people don’t realize, and I learned that a lot of people need help.”

Photo by Abby Blankenship