

SEAN A. PITTMAN, ESQ.

VISIONARY
INCLUSIVE
RESOURCEFUL
PROVEN LEADERSHIP

Through dynamic, astute leadership and strategic vision, I work to expand opportunities to increase intellectual contributions, lead state and national efforts, and empower individual and collective achievement through innovative strategies and impactful solutions that propel enterprises, people, projects, and goals to unlimited success.

 (772) 215-1500
 sean@pittman-law.com
 pittman-law.com

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor

Florida State University
College of Law, 1994

Bachelor of Science, Social Sciences

Florida State University, 1990

RECOGNITIONS

**The 100 Most Influential People
in Florida Politics**, Influence
Magazine, 2020, 2018, 2015

Florida State University
**Foundation Legacy Donor
Recognition**, 2020

Florida State University **Faculty
Senate Vires Torch Award**, 2019

Seminole Boosters **Golden Chief
Recognition**, 2007–Present

Tallahassee Community College
President's Award, 2019

**500 Most Influential Business
Leaders**, Florida Trend
Magazine, 2018

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

MANAGING PARTNER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PITTMAN LAW GROUP, P.L., 2001–Present

Founder of a preeminent law and governmental affairs firm operating in Tallahassee, Miami, and Riviera Beach, Florida

INTERNAL

- Provide executive leadership as CEO, directing business development strategies, overseeing business administration, and guiding financial management and planning in alignment with the firm's mission and vision
- Achieved exponential growth through the development and implementation of short-term and long-term strategic plans, establishing ambitious goals for growth of the firm's capacity, capabilities, revenue, and profitability
- Instituted a business model that supports and invests in diverse ideas, intelligent contributions, collaborative, inclusive leadership, and professional growth
- Execute financial management and sustainability strategies to achieve financial goals and budgets and identify opportunities to reduce expenses and reallocate resources

EXTERNAL

- Successfully advocate client priorities before the Florida Legislature and Cabinet, secure state funding opportunities, and maintain relationships with key House, Senate, and state agency leadership
- Cultivate strategic relationships leading to increased opportunities for mutually beneficial engagement on projects, initiatives, and business endeavors, including partnerships with Fortune 500 companies
- Provide legal counsel and representation on government, administrative and corporate law matters to clients, including cities, counties, universities, hospitals, banking institutions, aviation and port authorities, corporations, and professional associations; provide guidance to staff attorneys on complex legal matters, oversee recruitment and retention of senior staff
- Provide strategic advisement and government representation to clients across multiple industries, including higher education, transportation, telecommunications, county and municipal government, health care, farming, and food and beverage

RECOGNITIONS

Palm Beach County Sports Commission, **Award & Recognition**, 2019

DREAMS Center of Tallahassee **Youth and Family Programs President's Award**, 2019

The National Association for the Preservation of African American History & Culture, Inc. **Public Service Award**, 2019

Tallahassee Barristers **Hall of Fame Inductee**, 2017

ICE Foundation **Legal Luminary Award**, 2016

National Bar Association **Heman Sweatt Award**, 2016

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. **Theta Eta Legacy Award**, 2015

Leadership Florida **Distinguished Member Award**, 2015

Florida State University **National Black Alumni, Inc. DRUM Award**, 2015

John G. Riley Center and Museum **Corporate Leader Award**, 2014

Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce's **Chairman Award**, 2014

The Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc. **Community Leadership Award**, 2013

FSU Alumni Association **Circle of Gold Award**, 2013

Palm Beach County Black Educators Caucus **Community Service Award**, 2011

Children's Home Society **Chairman's Award**, 2011

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

- Serve as lead spokesperson providing expert legal, business, and political commentary on panels, keynotes, and media interviews
- Lead and participate in numerous charitable fundraising initiatives and volunteer activities in alignment with the firm's vision and commitment to community building and enhancing the lives of others

FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ESPMEDIA PRODUCTION CORPORATION, 2007–Present

Established a premier full range marketing and public relations firm specializing in media production, multicultural marketing, strategic communication, and campaign management

- Develop and implement a strategic plan applying business and financial management tactics to optimize achieving goals and objectives
- Identify opportunities to elevate client value and grow business through diverse, cutting-edge services and novel approaches to branding and campaign strategies
- Establish a strong business infrastructure through the recruitment of top talent and implementation of sophisticated systems and processes
- Advise and execute successful state and local political campaigns
- Serve as lead on external engagements and media spokesperson for clients

PAST PRESIDENT

ORANGE BOWL COMMITTEE, 2005–Present

- As president, led \$3 million renovation and re-opening of Orange Bowl Field at Glades Pioneer Park, a culmination of a multi-year effort that included intentional engagement of diverse contractors and strategic investment to strengthen the local economy
- Established long-standing relationships with university presidents, athletic directors, collegiate athletic conference leaders, ESPN network leadership and staff, and corporate sponsors, leading to opportunities to collaborate on initiatives and endeavors to strengthen players, programs, institutions, and communities
- Led partnership development efforts, including expanding the Orange Bowl engagement and activity area beyond Broward and Dade counties into Palm Beach County, increasing opportunities for partnerships, local outreach, and support
- Led initiative to gift newly updated media centers at three South Florida elementary schools, providing state-of-the-art equipment and technology to improve teacher and student access to resources to improve academic achievement
- Directed the establishment of annual \$10,000 scholarships for college-bound high school student-athletes in honor of victims of the tragic event at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida

RECOGNITIONS

Leadership Tallahassee, **Servant Leadership Award**, 2010

The Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development Committee, **Economic Development Champion of the Year Award**, 2009

Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend **Starfish Award**, 2009

Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce **Small Business of the Year Award**, 2007

Seminole Boosters **Silver Chief Recognition**, 2005, 2006

State University System of Florida Board of Regents **Appreciation Award**, 1993

BOARDS, COMMUNITY & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

State of Florida Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education & Engagement Taskforce, 2021

Leon County, FL Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education & Engagement Taskforce, 2021

Big Ten Athletic Conference Anti-Hate and Racism Coalition Member, 2020-Present

National Bar Association, General Counsel Designate, 2020-2021

Leon County Schools Coronavirus Task Force Member, 2020

Leadership Florida, Cornerstone Membership Selection Committee, 2020

College Football Playoff National Championship Game Host Committee, 2020-2021

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

BIG BEND MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BBMC), 2012–Present

Established a network of business owners across five North Florida counties driven to propel the local economy and provide tools and resources to empower minority business owners in the Big Bend region

- Facilitated a partnership with the Leon County School District to adopt Title I schools, raising thousands of dollars to provide enrichment and mentoring program support
- Spearheaded a strategic partnership with Walmart to provide COVID-19 micro-grants to help sustain diverse local businesses impacted by the pandemic
- Developed a ten-point policy plan focused on eliminating systemic inequities and building opportunities for women and black-owned businesses, including facilitating greater minority business participation in government contracts and supporting the development of micro-grants and loans to bridge disparities in availability and access to capital
- Created Camp 'Treppie, a one-week summer day camp for middle and high school students, designed to foster an entrepreneurial mindset; developed camp curriculum combining life-and-leadership skills with training and guidance on the fundamentals of successful business startups and financial literacy; partnered with Tallahassee Community College, the FSU College of Entrepreneurship, and Envision Credit Union to provide camp coaches, facilities, and funding support

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., 2018–Present

- Provide strategic counsel and expertise as a member of the Development and Trusteeship Committees and Foundation liaison to the Division of Student Affairs
- Assisted in efforts to grow the Foundation's endowments, notably, raising an unprecedented \$775,000 during the 2019 Great Give, a remarkable increase of 87 percent from 2018, and achieving 100 percent Trustee participation
- As a member of the New Candidate Cultivation task force, review and develop improvements to the new candidate identification and recruitment process and criteria for qualification
- Drive thoughtful discussion and debate to strengthen the Foundation's commitment to diversity and inclusion of trustees during deliberations on restructuring board membership criteria
- Identify potential new donors and opportunities to engage key corporate leaders in the state and country
- Provide key insights and recommendations on proposed policies, improvements to academic programs, and responsible use of the institution's resources

BOARDS, COMMUNITY & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Hancock Bank Board of Directors,
2007–2020

**Tallahassee Community College
President's Circle,** *2019–Present*

**Orange Bowl Committee,
President,** *2018–2019*

**Children's Campaign Board of
Directors,** *2012–2013*

**Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce
Executive Board of Directors,**
2007–2013

**Leon County Civic Center Authority
Board of Directors,** *2003–2012*

**Children's Home Society Board of
Directors, Former Chairman,**
2005–2011

**Apalachee Center Board of
Directors,** *2009–2010*

**The Governor's Club, Board of
Governors**

**University Center Club at Florida
State University, Board of
Governors,** *1996–2006*

**The Brogan Museum Board of
Directors,** *2002–2004*

**United Way of the Big Bend Board
of Directors,** *2010–2013*

**State University System of Florida,
Campus Safety Taskforce—Chairman,**
1993

**University of Central Florida—
Presidential Search Committee,** *1992*

**Florida Gulf Coast University—
Presidential Search Committee,** *1992*

The Florida Bar, Member
1997–Present

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER

WILHELMINA FOUNDATION, *2017–Present*

- Established the Foundation to provide annual textbook scholarships to students in need throughout the state of Florida
- Increased annual donor support from both individuals and corporations and awarded over 88 scholarships

FINANCE CHAIR

FLORIDA GUBERNATORIAL CYCLE, *2017–2018*

- Organized robust fundraising strategy and organization for the Florida Democratic Nominee
- Raised over \$65 million during the 2018 election cycle, toppling all previous dollars raised in a Florida democratic race for governor

FLORIDA BOARD OF REGENTS

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA, *1992–1993*

- Served on presidential search committees for Florida State University, University of Central Florida, and Florida Gulf Coast University
- Established and chaired a statewide task force to address campus safety following major incidents of violent crime at the University of Florida and University of West Florida
- Organized campus visit days at each state university for Board of Regents members to learn about each institution's programs and value proposition to the State University System.
- Instrumental in the review and approval to establish Florida Gulf Coast University as the tenth university in the State University System

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FLORIDA STUDENT ASSOCIATION, *1990–1991*

- Served as chief lobbyist representing the interest of 200,000 students across the entire State University System, advocating on student priority issues, including fees, student retention, college affordability, academic excellence, distance learning alternatives, accessibility, curriculum and programming
- Successfully lobbied to prevent tuition increases proposed by the Board of Regents and the Florida Legislature to ensure quality, affordable education
- Initiated and organized the first student-driven Statewide Education Summit convening student body presidents, university presidents, chancellor of the State University System, legislative leaders, and the Governor to discuss pertinent student issues
- Developed engagement strategies for the board of directors and students before the Florida Board of Regents, State University System, Florida Legislature, and the Governor's office
- Managed daily operations, budget, and staff

BOARDS, COMMUNITY & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

**Tallahassee Barristers
Association, Member**

**Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter,
National Bar Association, Member**

National Bar Association, Member

**Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.,
Life Member**

**Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Brawley
Legacy Member**

OTHER FSU LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT

**FSU Jim Moran Institute for
Global Entrepreneurship Advisory
Committee, 2018–Present**

**FSU College of Law, Board of
Visitors, 2014–Present**

**FSU College of Law Dean Search
Committee, 2016**

**Seminole Boosters Board of
Directors, 2006–2012**

**Seminole Torchbearers Board of
Directors and Chairman, 2005–2011**

**FSU Athletic Director Search
Committee, 2007**

**FSU Presidential Search
Committees, 1993 and 2003**

**FSU Burning Spear, Founding Class
and Corporate Board, 1993**

**Bobby E. Leach Center, Supervisor,
1991–1994**

**Search Committee for FSU Vice
President of Student Affairs, 1989**

**FSU Resident Assistant, DeGraff
Hall, 1987–1988**

FSU LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

- Represent the Florida State University Student Government Association before the Florida Legislature and Cabinet and partner with Florida State University's overall lobbying effort to advance the public policy and state government interests of FSU students, faculty, growth, placement, and infrastructure from 2007 to present

Notable legislative efforts include:

- Integral in advocacy efforts to establish the "Preeminent University" designation by the Florida Legislature leading to millions in state funding for faculty and resources to propel Florida universities to national preeminence
- Integral in advocating for the World Class Faculty and Scholars Program with an initial state investment of \$11 million to significantly lower the FSU student to faculty ratio
- Secured \$1.5 million in state funding to construct a Black Student Union building providing classroom, meeting, and social gathering space for FSU's Black Student Union student government organization
- Led successful advocacy efforts making FSU the most veteran-friendly university in Florida by creating the Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program funding for veterans and establishing the Student Veterans Center
- Advocated for millions in funding for the Graduate and Post-Doctoral Student Program to increase graduate and post-doctoral student populations
- Advocated for state funding and participated in negotiations to achieve FSU's full and exclusive ownership of the Leon County Civic Center
- Collaborate on advocacy efforts with lobbyists for fellow Florida universities on issues impacting student populations across the state
- Donated a \$100,000 endowment to establish the Sean Pittman Scholarship at Florida State University College of Law designated for minority law students
- Florida State University Legacy Donor, recognizing 26 consecutive years of giving to the university
- Seminole Boosters Golden Chief Recognition
- Florida State University College of Law Alumni Class Agent for FSU Annual Fund campaign
- Student Government Association – Student Body President
 - Led effort before the Faculty Senate to implement the XY course requirement illuminating the university's responsibility to cultural and gender differences
 - Allocated \$7 million in Capital Improvement Trust Fund to establish University Center Club at Doak Campbell Stadium
 - Successfully spearheaded effort to establish summer graduation ceremony at FSU

REFERENCES

(listed alphabetically)

Eric Barron

President, Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-7611

Jim Clements

President, Clemson University
201 Sikes Hall
Clemson, SC 29634
(864) 656-3413

Dr. Susan Fiorito

Dean, Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship
111 South Monroe Street,
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 644-7158

Mark Keenum

President, Mississippi State University
P.O. Box 6018
Mississippi State, MS 39762
(662) 325-3221

Sheriff Walt McNeil

Sheriff, Leon County, FL
2825 Municipal Way
Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 606-3300

Dr. Melvin Stith

Dean Emeritus, College of Business, Florida State University;
Dean Emeritus, Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University;
Interim President, Norfolk State University
2588 Noble Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(315) 345-6298

James Swofford

Former Commissioner, Atlantic Coast Conference
4512 Weybridge Lane
Geensboro, NC 27407
(336) 854-8787

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STAFF ATTORNEY,

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, 1998–1999

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,
1995–1998

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FLORIDA GOVERNOR LAWTON CHILES CAMPAIGN, 1994–1995

LAW CLERK

KATZ, KUTTER, HAIGLER, ALDERMAN, DAVIS & MARKS, 1993–1994

LAW CLERK

OFFICE OF SPEAKER DESIGNATE PETER WALLACE, FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RULES COMMITTEE, 1992–1993

PERSONAL

- Born in Lake Wales, Florida
- Attended public schools in Riviera Beach, Florida
- Married to Dr. Audra Pittman
- Children: Paloma, Phoebe and Pilar

PUBLICATIONS, INTERVIEWS & MEDIA

Pittman, Sean; Jefferson, Antonio (2020) An open letter to county commissioners. **Capital Outlook**.

Pittman, Sean (2020) Lots of qualified black women could be Biden's VP. Picking one will turn out Democrats. **South Florida Sun-Sentinel**.

Pittman, Sean (2020) Colorblind COVID-19 should open our eyes to racial disparities. **South Florida Sun-Sentinel**.

Pittman, Sean (2019) Florida's Latest Iteration of Voter Suppression – Parking on College Campuses. **South Florida Sun-Sentinel**.

Pittman, Sean (2019) Big Bend Minority Chamber charts an aggressive course for 2019. **Tallahassee Democrat**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) It's not just felons who need a second chance at voting. **Pensacola News Journal**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) Amendment 4 offers second chances and a sensible addition to the Constitution. **South Florida Times**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) I ask the NRA to take a stand on Stand Your Ground. **News-Press**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) Dems can't forget Black voters in 2018. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2018) Immigration v. Incarceration? Lock 'em up usually wins. **Westside Gazette**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) Dems face a big choice in 2018. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2018) Dems must get out of their own way. **Pensacola News Journal**.

Pittman, Sean (2018) Gun violence: explaining the inexplicable. **Tallahassee Democrat**.

Pittman, Sean (2017) Florida democrats must craft compelling, progressive campaigns in 2018. **Palm Beach Post**.

Pittman, Sean (2017) Florida shouldn't waste its teachable moments. **Tallahassee Democrat**.

Pittman, Sean (2017) Small business holiday a win for Florida. **News-Press**

Pittman, Sean (2015) Vantage Point: Conversation on police body cameras must move beyond debate. **New Pittsburgh Courier**.

Pittman, Sean (2012) Legislature must call special session to fix Stand Your Ground law. **South Florida Sun Sentinel**.

Pittman, Sean (2012) Black men bare the burden of other people's suspicions. **South Florida Sun Sentinel**.

Pittman, Sean (2010) Florida: Democracy of Indecision. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2010) U.S. Healthcare Debate: Losing focus. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2009) The American Dream: Restocked. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2008) Should Barack Obama choose Hillary Clinton as his Running Mate. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2008) The value of small business. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2007) Florida's property tax. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2007) Property insurance crisis in Florida. **SeanPittman.com**

Pittman, Sean (2006) The Institution of the Martin Lee Anderson Act. **SeanPittman.com**

RADIO

Ausley, Representative Lorraine; Alexander, Representative Ramon. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 12 January 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Ausley, Representative Lorraine. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 18 October 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Bottoms, Mayor Keisha L. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 29 March 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Bowden, Coach Bobby. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 27 October 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Braynon, Senator Oscar. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 14 June 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Crump, Attorney Benjamin. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 3 November 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Crump, Attorney Benjamin. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 8 July 2019. Radio and Podcast.

PUBLICATIONS, INTERVIEWS & MEDIA

Crump, Attorney Benjamin. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 31 May 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Evans, Political Director Vince. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 23 August 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Fried, Commissioner Nikki. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 29 September 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Gillum, Andrew. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 1 November 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Gillum, Andrew; Gillum, Jai R. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 16 June 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Jones, Representative Shevrin. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 20 October 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Lawson, Congressman Al. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 21 September 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Lawson, Congressman Al. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 17 November 2019. Radio and Podcast.

McKissack, Cheryl. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 15 March 2020. Radio and Podcast.

McNeil, Sheriff Walt. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 24 June 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Radakovich, Dan. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 16 February 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Reed, Kasim. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 16 August 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Rivers, Kim. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 19 May 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Rolle, Dr. Myron. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 22 September 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Rubin, Jeff. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 11 October 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Rye, Commentator Angela. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 8 September 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Sellers, Commentator Bakari. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 4 August 2019. Radio and Podcast.

Sellers, Commentator Bakari. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 7 June 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Shaw, Sean. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 4 October 2020. Radio and Podcast.

T.I. Interview by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 18 January 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Thurston, Senator Perry. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 26 January 2020. Radio and Podcast.

Pittman. **The Sean Pittman Show**. 22 December 2019. Radio and Podcast.

TELEVISION

Book, Attorney Ron; Jackson, Commissioner Jimbo. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network**. 4 October 2020. Television.

Bryant, Commissioner Elaine. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network**. 6 January 2019. Television.

Bush, Governor Jeb E. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network. Television**.

Crist, Governor Charlie. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network. Television**.

Fineout, Gary. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network**. 17 February 2019. Television.

Geraghty, Pat; Pittman, Sean; Stoetzel, Kelly. Keynote. **Diversity and Inclusion Building Legacies Session hosted by the Tallahassee Community College Foundation**. 4 September 2018.

Hanna, Superintendent Rocky. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network**. 29 November 2020. Television.

Jones, Representative Shevrin; Moskowitz, Jared. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network**. 22 September 2019. Television.

PUBLICATIONS, INTERVIEWS & MEDIA

Kam, Dara; Watson, Screven. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 12 May 2019. Television.

Litz, Steve; Pittman, Sean. Commentator. **The Place for Politics. MSNBC.** 12 March 2016. Television.

Litz, Steve; Pittman, Sean. Commentator. **The Place for Politics. MSNBC.** 3 March 2016. Television.

Loudon, Dr. Gina; Forbes, Steve, Pittman, Sean. Commentator. The Business Intelligence Report with Trish Regan. **Fox Business News.** 29 August 2015. Television.

Loudon, Gina, McCain, Meghan, Pittman, Sean. Commentator. The Business Intelligence Report with Trish Regan. **Fox Business News.** 25 October 2015. Television.

Matlow, Commissioner Jeremy; Akbar, Attorney Mutaqee. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 13 September 2020. Television.

Marsh, U.S. District Attorney Pamela. Interviewed by Sean Pittman, Steve Vancore, and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 8 March 2020. Television.

Metzler, Chris; Pittman, Sean. Commentator. America's Election Headquarters. **Fox News Channel.** 24 January 2016. Television.

Montford, Senator Bill. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 20 January 2019. Television.

Moore, Dr. Ed. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 21 July 2019. Television.

Moore, Dr. Ed. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 15 March 2020. Television.

Moskowitz, Jared. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 26 October 2020. Television.

Pittman, Sean. Interviewed by Andrew Gillum and Angela Rye. Black America Votes 2020. **BET Networks.** 3 November 2020. Television.

Pittman, Sean. Interviewed by Dr. Gina Loudon. **America Trends. YouToo America.** 23 October 2015. Television.

Pittman, Sean. Commentator. The Business Intelligence Report with Trish Regan. **Fox Business News.** 15 September 2015. Television.

Pittman, Sean. Commentator. America's Newsroom. **Fox News Channel.** 26 November 2015. Television.

Pittman, Sean. Commentator. America's Newsroom. **Fox News Channel.** 23 December 2015. Television.

Scott, Governor Rick. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Gary Yordon. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 27 April 2013. Television.

Sprolws, Speaker Chris. Interviewed by Sean Pittman. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 9, April 2021. Television.

Watson, Screven. Interviewed by Sean Pittman and Steve Vancore. **The Usual Suspects. CBS Network.** 1 September 2019. Television.

CLIENTS

Under the leadership of Attorney Pittman, the firm has grown from serving the Tallahassee community to a premier Florida boutique firm which represents Fortune 500 companies and the largest counties in the State of Florida. Many of Pittman Law Group's clients have entrusted Attorney Pittman with their government affairs, legal, and consulting needs for nearly two decades, and this is due to the leadership and management of Attorney Sean Pittman.

Past and Present Clients Include:

Altria Client Services, Inc.	Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers	Northwest Florida State College
American Addiction Centers, Inc.	Florida Crystals	Palm Beach County Government
Ampco Parking Services	Florida Health Care Association	Palm Beach Kennel Club
Arbor Construction	Florida Hospital Association	Paradym Engineering
Ashbritt Environmental	Florida Power and Light	Peoples Gas
Associated Industries of Florida	Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association	Poarch Creek Indians
Bellsouth/AT&T	Florida State University Student Government Association	Republic Parking
Boca Bay DUI Program	Florida Student Association	Republic Properties Corporation
Bond Community Health Center	Fortress Investment Group	Reynolds, Smith and Hills
Broward County Government	Gadsden County Sheriff's Office	Richard S. Bernstein & Associates
Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX)	Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners	Sandco Inc.
City of Belle Glade	GDS Associates, Inc.	Sentry Security Systems, LLC
City of Delray Beach	General Tobacco	South Florida Limousine Association
City of Gretna	Genting Americas	Storage Rentals of America
City of Miami	Good Housing Partnership	Tallahassee Housing Authority
City of North Miami	Grain Communications Group, Inc.	Tampa Electric
City of Orlando	Granger Development, Inc.	TECO Energy
City of Port Orange	Harvey, Branker & Associates	The College Board
City of Riviera Beach	Hospital Corporation of America	Town of Mangonia Park
City of Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency	Indelible Solutions	T-Pain
City of Tallahassee	Investment Corporation of Palm Beach	Trulieve
Clear Channel Airports	Las Vegas Sands Corporation	UBER Technologies, Inc.
Corizon Healthcare	Leon County School Board	United Bank of Switzerland
Danzy Bail Bonds	Leon County Sheriff's Office	Village of Royal Palm Beach
DraftKings	LLT Development, Inc.	Visit Florida
FanDuel	Marine Industries Association of South Florida	Visit Tallahassee
Florida A&M University	Miami-Dade County Government	Wakulla County School Board
Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network	MWH Global, Inc.	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Florida Association for Care and Ethical Services	Nationwide Parking Services	Waste Management, Inc.
Florida Association of Counties		WFSU Public Media
		Whole Child Leon
		Wind Creek
		Zimmerman Agency

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May 7, 2021

Mr. Bob Sasser, Chair
c/o SP&A Executive Search
6512 Painter Avenue
Whittier, CA 90601

Dear Chair Sasser and Members of the Presidential Advisory Search Committee:

We are in unprecedented and exciting times. The country, and the world, are on the cusp of transformational change impacting every facet of our lives. The challenges we face today present tremendous opportunities for leaders to take daring steps to achieve meaningful, lasting impact. Florida State University has a well-deserved reputation as a leader in academic excellence and innovation, and currently positioned to be a leader among universities – both private and public – in the next evolution of higher education. This next phase promises to be both exciting and challenging. The University’s imminent shift requires a leader with both a clear vision and a passion for the institution. Moreover, such a champion must possess the skill and acumen to navigate complex administrative processes, fundraise, advocate on behalf of the institution, spearhead partnerships, and promote global excellence. With that, I am honored to submit this letter of interest for the opportunity to lead my beloved alma mater, as the next President of Florida State University.

As a *passionate advocate for FSU* for more than thirty-five years, I have supported, advanced, and implemented countless contributions that have enhanced FSU and continue to position the students, faculty, and institution for greater success. My connection and commitment to our great institution run deep. As a former FSU Student Body President, graduate of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy and FSU College of Law, member of multiple FSU alumni and fundraising groups, more than 15 years lobbying State Government on behalf of FSU’s Student Government Association, and a Legacy donor for 26 consecutive years, I hold strong, long-standing relationships with FSU’s students, student organizations, and alumni. My widespread involvement impacting various FSU campus units and populations provide a unique breadth and depth of understanding about FSU’s culture, strengths, challenges, and opportunities. This understanding and connectedness facilitates a sense of trust within the FSU community and increases opportunities to foster renewed enthusiasm and active support.

Below, I draw your attention to the personal values that have informed my life and work, my commitment to the University and my work in the community, state, and country more broadly. I believe that my experiences, commitment, and the values expressed in everything I have done speak to my capacity to lead the university. As the next President of Florida State University, I am committed to cultivating opportunities to fortify FSU's role as a leading academic institution driving innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and creativity in alignment with the University's mission and vision.

Fundraising Excellence

"During my presidency of Florida State University, Sean Pittman was well known for his love of FSU and was considered a "go to" alumnus for fundraising, ACC relationships, and especially government relations. We made significant strides and Sean was an important part of our success."

Eric J. Barron, President, Penn State University

Growing and expanding funding and resources is a critical component in strengthening FSU's fiscal vitality and capacity to pursue new national distinctions. My established relationships within State Government and decades of advocacy on issues impacting higher education provide valuable insight on effective strategies, key players, and opportunities for state funding. I have successfully partnered in advocacy efforts leading to FSU obtaining the "Preeminent University" designation, resulting in millions in state funding for faculty and resources. Additionally, these efforts secured a state investment of \$11 million for the World Class Faculty and Scholars program to reduce FSU's student to faculty ratio, among other significant state funding successes impacting FSU as detailed in my CV materials.

Although increasing state funding is crucial, the University must also explore greater utilization of existing and emerging federal funding opportunities and strengthen institutional advancement efforts. My extensive business, community, and civic engagement provides an established network of local, state, national, and international sources of new and expanded corporate and foundation philanthropy. Increasing FSU's endowments are integral to supporting robust student financial aid, programs and activities, retaining distinguished faculty, and increasing the University's impact within underserved communities throughout the state. Through my work as a member of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, I actively contribute to efforts to grow the Foundation's endowments and participated in a task force to modernize the Foundation's approach to raising resources. As a member of the task force, I led efforts to ensure inclusion was considered as the group worked to restructure the Foundation, expand the number of seats on the board, modernize membership criteria, and improve campus engagement by assigning a Board liaison to each college and program. These changes demonstrate a commitment to modernizing our approach, which is essential to improving the Foundation's work and engagement.

As President, I will also explore pathways to monetize FSU's research efforts and its assets with entities positioned to support the dynamic work taking place at FSU, which will result in attracting renown faculty and high-achieving students. As the third-largest state in the country, it is time for Florida's State University System to include more than one member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). We must rank in education alongside our peer states --- California, Texas, and New York, which boast multiple AAU institutions. President Thrasher worked diligently toward this goal. With aggressive strategies and outreach, FSU can achieve this distinction resulting in benefits that impact the entire state. These benefits must continue to be pressed upon the state legislature to strengthen the state's commitment to funding higher education initiatives that will attract ambitious students, talented faculty, and, ultimately, contribute to the growth and reputation of the state.

My capacity to immediately engage in effective fundraising for the university is supported by my *professional fundraising expertise* comprised of decades leading and participating in successful fundraising efforts on behalf of charitable organizations and initiatives and raising significant funds as finance chair and consultant for candidates for elected office.

Above all, I am committed to responsible stewardship that expands FSU's scope of possibilities in an efficient and sustainable manner. Although FSU has stewarded resources well over the years, growing FSU's endowments to \$2 billion will provide access to spendable funds to implement strategic changes that are necessary to expand research, significantly increase student financial aid, recruit top faculty, researchers, and doctoral students, optimize student-to-faculty ratios, improve infrastructure, and meet other targeted goals. I am prepared to aggressively pursue this ambitious endowment goal.

Academic Excellence

"I have no doubt that Sean Pittman would be a dynamic leader for many institutions, but I find him particularly and uniquely equipped to successfully lead Florida State University with a passion, purpose, and conviction that is highly sought after and difficult to find."

Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

As institutions of higher education work to reimagine possibilities beyond the long-standing traditional model that was upended, in an instant, by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am eager to lead FSU to the forefront in this new frontier. Infinite opportunities exist to achieve greater national recognition, increase statewide impact, lead dynamic change in inclusion practices, and strengthen FSU's most important assets and stakeholders - our students, faculty, and alumni.

FSU has been blessed with a history of outstanding leaders. The fruits of their labor have been significant growth and the achievement of national prominence.

From a very young age, I recognized the power of education to change lives, communities, and societies. And I did not shy away from advocating for that. As FSU Student Body President, I successfully lobbied the FSU Faculty Senate to implement the XY course requirement, mandating the completion of a course addressing cultural and/or gender differences for all undergraduate

students. This was a unique and difficult challenge, as the issue had been discussed for over a decade without discernible progress being made. Adding the student voice to this issue made all the difference. I was able to convince students to support this issue even though it would add a course requirement to their curriculum. As students, we collectively decided the XY requirement would make us better prepared for the world we would face upon graduation.

Fast forward to more recent times. In 2019, I was honored to receive the Faculty Senate Vires Award for my commitment to helping students at Florida State both during my time as a student and as an alumnus. At the awards ceremony, President Thrasher characterized the awardees in this manner:

“Each of these honorees have contributed to the academic excellence of this university. They have donated their time, talent and treasure because they believe strongly in our mission and because they care deeply about our faculty, staff and students. They do it, quite simply, because they love Florida State University.”

As president of FSU, my mission-driven vision will focus on significantly increasing resources, not only to expand the research enterprise overall, but also to recognize the individual accomplishments and achievements of our faculty that drive those enterprises. As Florida State University continues to etch out its legacy in the academic landscape, I will stand as a committed advocate in becoming not only one of the best public universities in the country but also one of the best institutions of higher education on the continent. I am excited to work with research faculty, deans, and other administration as we charge toward the coveted AAU membership. AAU membership identifies the University as the apex of research. Great research enhances teaching and quality teaching is essential to the student experience. Some view great tension between excellence in research and teaching, I do not. I believe they compliment one another, each making the other stronger. The student experience has always been the focus of faculty and administration alike, and I am committed to enriching, deepening, and extending that experience and improving its quality and value to students by increasing financial support and expanding our health, wellness, and support services.

Administrative Excellence

"I already consider Sean a colleague and a partner within the collegiate environs. I would gladly welcome him to the family of university presidents. Sean has the energy, experience, and skill to lead Florida State University. With a strong commitment to excellence, he would proudly serve as president with enthusiasm and passion each and every day."

James P. Clements, Ph.D., President, Clemson University

The best leaders surround themselves with a team that also reflects their ethics, values, and energy. I am excited to engage with members of the campus community to illuminate the challenges we face and to develop solutions to overcome them through consensus and collaboration.

My leadership philosophy centers on the inclusive engagement of diverse perspectives and forward-thinking, collaborative, and data-informed goal setting. I believe in the balance of empathetic understanding with integrity-driven decision making. Above all else, I am a fully engaged leader, accessible, a participant in the full University experience, and energetically embody the lifeblood of our culture, heritage and who we are as 'Noles.

My professional experiences as both an entrepreneur and an attorney provide a valuable balance of comprehensive analytical skills and intelligent risk-taking. I am a skilled collaborator and an effective advocate. For more than twenty years, I have provided executive leadership as chief executive officer of a thriving law and government affairs firm that has expanded to include multiple office locations across the state.

My extensive experience includes strategic and financial planning, operational and risk management coupled with an understanding of complex legal and regulatory issues. My demonstrated skill in running multiple businesses and organizations has equipped me to succeed in the complexities of the university context including knowledge of innovative best practices in personnel and employment management, technology and virtual learning, and campus life.

As FSU seeks a new President that will uphold its commitment to addressing *diversity, equity, and inclusion*, I share this strong commitment and have championed these issues throughout my career. As an appointee of the Big Ten Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Coalition, I work alongside chancellors, presidents, athletic directors, coaches, and student-athletes to develop effective strategies and methods to combat hate around the world. I am prepared to support FSU's existing initiatives and identify new opportunities to enhance the same.

As examples of my commitments to this cause, I engaged in an effort to strengthen the diversity of the FSU College of Law by donating a \$100,000 endowment establishing the Sean Pittman Scholarship for minority law students. In 2016, I lobbied the Florida Legislature and successfully secured \$1.5 million in state funding to construct a Black Student Union building that provides classrooms, meeting, and social gathering space for FSU's Black Student Union student government organization.

Additionally, in 2017, I founded and established The Wilhelmina Foundation, named for my mother, to provide annual textbook scholarships to minority students in need throughout the State of Florida. Moreover, my work on diversity and inclusion is recognized each year at FSU's annual leadership awards night, where for the last 27 years, one student leader receives "the Sean Pittman Award" for their work and impact on the black community at Florida State University.

As President, I will be committed to the development of similar efforts and the recruitment of a diverse student body and ensuring our faculty and staff reflect that diversity as well.

Partnership Excellence

"As a world-class research institution, Florida State University thrives with corporate investment, government support, and philanthropic funding while contributing to society ideas with global impact and people who are catalysts in the academy, the arts, and athletics. Sean Pittman understands the importance of fostering and growing private and public partnerships demonstrated by an extensive and distinguished record. He has a vision for achieving and exceeding current strategic plan goals by leveraging symbiotic business connections as a conduit to a billion-dollar endowment for our university."

J'Tia Hart, Ph.D. (B.S. '02)

Nuclear Engineer, Argonne National Laboratory

In each of my areas of expertise, I have built strong relationships based on mutual benefit and social impact. My depth of knowledge of the State University System of Florida and university governance provides me with the ability to effectively navigate the university system's multi-layered governance structure. As a former member of the Florida Board of Regents, I evaluated, developed, and supported the adoption of policies, academic programs, and strategic and financial plans governing public universities in the state. This former leadership and engagement within the governance system guides my insight and understanding and enables me to work effectively with fellow state university presidents and lead efforts to secure gains impacting the entire System.

My engagement and success across Florida's leading businesses and industries have been recognized by *Influence Magazine*, which has named me one of the 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics, Leadership Florida Distinguished Member of the Year, and *Florida Trend Magazine's* 500 Most Influential Business Leaders. My skill for entrepreneurship and passion for economic inclusion led me to establish the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce to support fellow entrepreneurs and the local economy and provide a structured source of business tools, resources, and community programs. In 2020, I forged a partnership between the Chamber and Walmart to provide COVID-19 micro-grants to help sustain local businesses impacted by the pandemic. In recognition of my success as an entrepreneur, I was named to the FSU Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee, where I worked to further the mission of this national treasure. My skill in identifying key points of mutual interest among stakeholders representing various constituencies and structuring discussions to emphasize the potential benefits has been vital to my numerous successes as a lawyer, businessman, advocate, and leader of multiple organizations. This quality translates well into the role of a university president tasked with collaborating with multiple stakeholders to advance the mission and vision of the university.

As a leader within the Orange Bowl Committee, I helped negotiate the 2014 partnership with Capital One. I was, subsequently, appointed as chairman of our corporate partnership committee to cultivate the Capital One and other corporate relationships over the years, including the College Football Playoff, Miami Dolphins Organization and ESPN Broadcasting Network. Under my leadership, we were able to sign another multi-year renewal, maintaining the partnership agreement through 2026. Additionally, during my term as President and chair of the

Orange Bowl Committee, I led the negotiations, completion and re-opening of a \$3 million sports field and facility revitalization project at Glades Pioneer Park in Belle Glade, Florida, the organization's first Legacy Gift in Palm Beach County. Through these experiences, I have developed well-established relationships with university presidents, athletic conference commissioners, collegiate conference leaders, and corporate sponsors that will be beneficial to enhancing FSU's athletics programs, leadership, and fundraising among Boosters.

In addition to fundraising to support the Orange Bowl's academic and community programs, I led the establishment of annual \$10,000 scholarships for college-bound student-athletes honoring the victims of the Parkland, Florida tragedy.

Global Excellence

"I believe that Sean has the intellectual aptitude to fully understand the myriad of issues impacting the post-secondary institutions and can bring his experience and adroitness to the tables of power.

Sean will work diligently with faculty, staff and students to continue Florida State's climb in the academic rankings by extending its reach and reputation in the global academy. Sean will build a global platform of opportunities for this great university. He will listen and engage with all parts of the university community. This will be an easy task given Sean's ease of style and graceful personality.

I believe he has the professional skills and experience to build an exemplary executive team and comprehensive strategies to complement his leadership and continue to move Florida State forward to greater heights and enhanced status amongst public universities. Finally, I firmly believe that Sean can meet the new as well as well as ongoing challenges that will be faced by the next President of Florida State University."

Melvin T. Stith, PhD

Dean Emeritus, College of Business, Florida State University; Dean Emeritus,
Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University; Interim President,
Norfolk State University (2018-2019)

What makes a University globally renowned is its well-rounded commitment to academics, overlain by an authentic commitment to a *student-centric experience* reflected in a strong commitment to the community, to the arts and to athletics. The depth and breadth of my personal and professional interests has uniquely positioned me to carry this flame on behalf of our institution.

My wife, Dr. Audra Pittman serves as Vice President for The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and has 20 years of experience in the arts, education, and business. In her previous role, she served as Executive Director of the capital region's Council on Culture and Arts (COCA). Through her strong influence, I have developed a deep, personal understanding and appreciation

for the role that arts play in student and community development. Included in my overall vision, I will continue to elevate preeminence and further illuminate arts and culture within the University and within the neighboring communities.

FSU's intercollegiate athletic enterprise has an outstanding reputation and numerous national titles and is in a prime position to elevate its standings. My *vast experience in intercollegiate athletics* provides a fundamental understanding of the challenges and opportunities for athletic programs in higher education. Strengthening the athletic program requires integrating athletics into a unified vision and identifying its place within FSU's academic and public missions. By developing a strategic plan to achieve "Athletic and Academic Excellence," FSU's athletics program will appropriately complement the university's overall mission and reinforce its reputation as an institution that is committed to comprehensive athletic excellence.

In Conclusion

"I have had the privilege of working with fifty-five different university presidents representing the fifteen institutions of the ACC during my 24-year tenure as commissioner of the conference. My observations of those individuals and of the extraordinary capabilities, experiences and values of Sean Pittman lead me to believe that Mr. Pittman would bring outstanding leadership and superb results to this position."

John D. Swofford, Commissioner Atlantic Coast Conference (Fmr)

As this letter describes, FSU must continue to build on the existing momentum with diligent work toward ambitious goals. However, these goals cannot be realized without acquiring the necessary resources. Reimagining the approach to increasing FSU's endowment and taking the required steps to realize it are essential to reaching new, extraordinary heights. This requires that everyone in the FSU community be a partner in the effort, and when done well, everyone will be.

Here at Florida State University, we have the opportunity to use our preeminence to serve as a change agent within the great state of Florida. We should strive to be more than a presence within the state, but a driving force of the state by engaging in important issues, matters and challenges throughout the state. Using our assets to impact more communities throughout Florida will, in turn, build supporters who may not be previously affiliated with FSU, but become newly committed to our great institution as they experience and appreciate the impact FSU has on their lives.

My executive leadership experience in developing and executing ambitious strategic and financial plans, state and federal government affairs experience, professional fundraising savvy, prior involvement in higher education governance in Florida, and record of unwavering student advocacy and support of FSU are key strengths that shape my insight and approach to setting a vision that propels the institution to immeasurable success.

It would be my life's honor to lead and build a stronger FSU, supporting the mission and core values and working together with the Board of Trustees and the University community to advance

Florida State into the list of top 10 public universities and accept an invitation to join the Association of American Universities.

I look forward to the opportunity to further discuss my vision for the university, my commitment to its success, and my qualifications for shaping a future we collectively embrace.

Regards,

Sean Pittman

Sent electronically: May 7, 2021