



DAVID E. ROBBINS '78

Biographical Sketch

A lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, Dave attended Penn State and graduated with two B.S. degrees (Business Administration and Psychology) in 1978. During his years at University Park, Dave worked at a local retail store, was President of Association of Residence Hall Students and a founding member of “Movin’ On,” the current annual PSU spring concert. In 1976, he was recognized by induction into Penn State’s Skull and Bones Honor Society. He graduated from Villanova Law School where he was an editor of the Law Review and received a J.D. in 1981. For over thirty years he has served his clients (individuals and businesses) and worked for the local courts. A past Board member and President of the Delaware County Bar Association and active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Constitutional Review Commission, Dave volunteered his time to endeavors that enhance the delivery of legal services across the Commonwealth. He has involved himself on Boards of local community service programs in the City of Chester and elsewhere in Delaware County. Dave’s expertise has been sought to improve governance in many organizations and he has created mechanisms making them more effective and responsive. His volunteerism includes numerous, diverse community and charitable activities.

Dave recognizes the importance of his Penn State education; the lessons learned at Happy Valley and uses both on a daily basis. He will insist upon moving towards an environment of participation, accountability, transparency and business reality while focusing on PSU’s primary charter; educating Pennsylvania’s young citizens.

For the Glory!

Position Statement

“Penn State and Imagination!” - words that repeatedly rang out across the quad during my time at University Park. The proclamation of a Vietnam Vet housed in East Halls, “Spooky” may have joyously shouted these words, but I embraced their soul and energy, today with even greater appreciation. The richness of the Penn State experience defies words. At Penn State I learned to take responsibility for my community and to work, sometimes against the odds, against the status quo when people and organizations need to change. My Penn State-born sense of civic action influenced my entire legal career and life.

I owe my alma mater and this is my chance to repay this debt.

The Board’s current framework limits accountability to the people of Pennsylvania for whom this great Land Grant school was named. As an attorney, I have counseled individuals, communities and businesses. I possess skills to tackle the tough changes needed. My experience will help achieve consensus on mechanisms to improve governance (i.e., reduced Board terms, increased alumni representation, use of cybermedia) thus encouraging open communication, inclusiveness, integrity and accountability. But the enormity of the task suggests change may not come readily. I am prepared to hold firm, whatever the demands. I WILL speak out if the Board ignores obligations to those the University was founded to serve.

With diligence and imagination, I’ll ensure PSU continues among the world’s greatest places to attend college; a school where every student and alumnus is “Penn State Proud!”