How ADAP was located at the University of Alabama
In 1975 The Education of all Handicapped Children Act (PL94-142) required free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. This act was later renamed The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Developmental Disability Bill of Rights Act established Protection and Advocacy (P & A) services.

The Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act provided federal funds to programs serving people with developmental disabilities and outlined a series of rights for those who were institutionalized.

In August 1976, ADAP was designated to The University of Alabama through a telegram sent by Governor George C. Wallace. At that time, the P&A was known as ADDAP, the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Program. Later, as more programs were added, ADDAP became ADAP, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP).

Why ADAP is located at The University of Alabama
In the beginning ADAP was designated to plan and implement a statewide advocacy system for the protection and advocacy of individual rights for developmentally disabled persons. George C. Wallace noted that by October 1, 1977 that Alabama would have in effect a system to protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities in accordance with the law.

ADAP was placed under The University of Alabama School of Law to be able to draw from their resources and expand. Over the years, ADAP has expanded, changed and grown. In 2004, ADAP was placed directly under the supervision of Dr. Judy Bonner, Provost, and head of the Division of Academic Affairs. ADAP is the only P&A in the U.S. that is housed in an Institution of Higher Learning. By being a part of the University system, ADAP is allowed to draw from resources on the University campus, including the School of Social Work, School of Law, College of Continuing Studies and to use these resources to assist consumers, advocates and family members of those with disabilities in the state of Alabama.

James A. Tucker jtucker@adap.ua.edu was selected in 2014 as the new Executive Director of the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, housed at The University of Alabama. Prior to this appointment, Tucker served as ADAP’s litigation director for 15 years. During the last six years, he served concurrently as the agency’s associate director.

ADAP works with the University of Alabama in many areas of disability and legal based advocacy.
Examples:

- Hiring students from The School of Law as Law Clerks while they learn about disability law and assist in drafting legal documents

- Bachelor and Master Social Work students do an internship with ADAP on

- Provide lectures, and teach classes as needed on disability law, early intervention, special education and other disability related issue

- Bring grant dollars to the institution

- Providing a central location for students from UA, plus other institutions around the state (and country), to learn about disability law

- Providing positive publicity, as a part of UA, for good things that have been accomplished by the agency for persons with disabilities throughout the state.

**ADAP's Mission Statement:**
The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nation's federally-funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights. ADAP's vision is one of a society in which persons with disabilities are valued and exercise self-determination through meaningful choices, and have equality of opportunity. ADAP is part of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN).

**ADAP's Advocacy efforts are governed by these values:**

- Persons with disabilities should have the same opportunity to participate in the community as persons without disabilities.

- Persons with disabilities have the right to reasonable accommodations that are needed for full participation.

- Persons with disabilities have the right to be afforded meaningful choices and to make informed decisions.
ADAP has 7 program/grants components:

- **Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD)** The PADD program was created by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (DD) Act of 1975. PADD was established to protect the legal and civil rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

- **Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)** The PAIMI program was established by Congress in 1986 and receives funding from the National Center for Mental Health Services. The purpose of the PAIMI program is to protect and advocate for the rights of persons with mental illness and investigate reports of abuse and neglect.

- **Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)** The PABSS Program is a federally funded program authorized by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act of 1999. The Act authorizes the Social Security Administration (SSA) to fund ADAP to provide work incentive assistance to SSDI and SSI beneficiaries seeking vocational rehabilitation, employment and other support services or seeking to secure or regain employment.

- **Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)** The PAIR program was established by Congress as a national program under the Rehabilitation Act as amended in 1993. PAIR programs were established to protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of persons with disabilities who are not eligible to be served in the CAP, PAIMI, or PADD programs.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury Protection and Advocacy (PATBI)** PATBI is a federally funded program authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 and its reauthorization as part of the Children’s Health Act of 2000. The PATBI program ensures that individuals with TBI and their families have access to: information, referrals and advice; individual and family advocacy; legal representation; and specific assistance in self-advocacy.

- **Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)** The PAAT program provides legal and non-legal advocacy services for individuals with disabilities who are denied access to assistive technology devices and/or assistive technology services.

- **Protection and Advocacy for Voter Accessibility (PAVA)** The PAVA program ensures that every qualified person with a disability has the opportunity to vote.