

Youlia Racheva 1L Representative Section 1 Candidate

Hi Section 1! My name is Youlia Racheva, and I am running to be your SBA representative because I want to make sure you have the best experience possible at NYU Law.

Quick basics about me: I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, went to undergrad at BU, and then lived in Chicago for four years. I worked as a paralegal for the Center on Wrongful Convictions and had a brief stint in campaign work during 2016. I have held leadership positions in student government and other organizations throughout college and my professional career, and have experience building relationships, organizing events, and advocating for groups I represent.

Most important things: What I want to do for you!

Communication: First and foremost, the role of a 1L section leader is to listen to and advocate for the needs of her section. If elected, I will hold office hours and make myself available to listen to your concerns and do my best to advocate for your needs.

Campus life: Law school life can be overwhelming and having certain institutional knowledge or access to services when you need them is crucial. Some things I want to help us navigate:

- Services at NYU. What does the healthcare plan cover? Where are the gyms? What other services are available to students? These are some of the questions I wish were covered during Orientation. I want to find a way to put all of this information in one place that is easily accessible. What would you prefer? A packet, a presentation (which is my suggestion for Orientation next year), or some other medium? You tell me.
- On campus therapy walk-in hours. I would like to have the law school therapist host walk-in hours on the law campus for one week during the second or third month of school. Mental health and stress management is important, but it can be hard to make time to take the first step. Let's bring it to us.
- Guide to the rest of law school. I think I want to be a teaching assistant next year, but what does that actually mean? I want to put together 'Day in the Life' guides on: Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, Journal staff/editor, affinity group Executive Board member, and more.

Community building: I chose to come to NYU because I loved the sense of community I felt when I visited, and I want to build up that comradery for all of us. Some event ideas:

- Section Challenge! Not only are we Section 1, but we all know we're #1, so let's show those other sections how amazing we are. Trivia? Lip sync contest? Full day competition including tug-o-war, water-balloon fight or relay races? It's up to you.
- Section picnic/party. Let's get to know each other as real-life human beings and not just as classmates. And get the school to pay for it, maybe.
- Section weekend or day trips. Does anyone else feel like they've barely seen anywhere outside the walls of Vanderbilt or their apartment for the last month?? Having a designated weekend to get away from the city together would help relieve at least a bit of the stress of school. Let's go hiking/camping/kayaking together.

If you have any questions about my candidacy, please feel free to reach out! It would be a huge honor to serve as your Section Rep this year, and I hope I can count on your vote.



Safeena Mecklai - 1L Representative Section 1 Candidate

My name is Safeena Mecklai and I am so excited to be running to represent Section 1 as our 1L Representative to SBA!

The first question that you're likely asking is, what does SBA do besides bar review? SBA is the elected student government of NYU Law, and the section representative is responsible for making sure that our voices are heard by working to get funding for section activities, advocating for services, and ensuring that we are represented on SBA committees.

As an undergraduate at U.C. Berkeley, I served as one of twenty elected Senators as well as the External Affairs Vice President (EAVP) for the student body. As Senators, we were charged with making sure that students were represented in decisions around funding, administration, hiring, and policy. As EAVP, I was responsible for acting as the student body's advocate at the local, state, and national levels. In both roles, I prioritized bringing student voices into decision making that would impact their lives. For example, when students were unhappy with the lack of lighting around campus I worked with 1) campus administration to identify ways to increase campus safety, and 2) the local community to run a citywide "Keep Your Porch Light On" campaign to encourage neighbors to keep their porch lights on in poorly lit areas, using environmentally-friendly bulbs we gave out to them for free.

During my time in student government, we also ran campaigns to improve diversity, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented students on campus; to create the nation's first ever Congressional caucus dedicated to California public higher education; to ensure funding for student groups like affinity and activity organizations; to respond when contentious speech issues were raised on campus and in the community; and mostly, to make people feel happier, safer, and more supported while on campus.

After college, I worked in government relations in NYC while serving on the associate boards of the LAMP, a media literacy nonprofit, the NY League of Conservation Voters, and the Association for a Better New York. In these roles, I focused on how effective governance can create positive change.

I am confident that, if elected, I can translate these experiences into impactful advocacy, leadership, and support as our section's 1L representative. I believe that when done correctly, student government can do incredible things (even beyond bar review, which is, mostly, amazing). I created our section Facebook group because I know that it's easier to be in a new place and learning new things with the support of a community. I love facilitating opportunities for both friendship and growth, and I would be honored and delighted to bring our section's unique voice to our student government while also bringing SBA's resources back to us.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this, and I hope you'll reach out with any questions. Go Bobcats (which is randomly our mascot)!



Adam George – 1L Representative Section 3 Candidate

Hello friends! I am writing today to discuss that most solemn of duties accorded any group of individuals who choose to associate in a free society: the right to vote. While we may have our disagreements over policy and tactics, as is our right, we also acknowledge that the responsibility to vote is so incredibly vital that to abrogate that responsibility cannot be contemplated.

I hope that I have at this point had been blessed with your acquaintance, but if I have not, I will tell you a bit about myself. I grew up in Indianapolis, which you likely know as the hometown of current NHRA Funny Car driver and 2 time Super Comp champion Shawn Langdon. Most recently, I lived in Miami, Florida, where I attended college. I enjoy a variety of hobbies, including running, hiking, and cooking.

If I am so fortunate as to be elected your Section 3 1L SBA representative, I will aim to be as accessible as possible to my fellow classmates. If you have any student organizations you wish to start, please come to me, and I will work hard to make it happen. If you have any concerns with the law school, from the trivial (like how we didn't get enough free stuff during orientation week) to the more serious, I will listen to your concerns and raise them at SBA meetings and before faculty. I simply want to be a conduit for your concerns, and work my hardest to make sure those concerns are heard.

It is often said that in today's day and age, it is simply impossible for any person to handle the manifold problems with which a 1L SBA representative is confronted each and every day. While this is certainly true, I can promise to appreciate the awesome responsibility accorded me, and work to the best of my abilities.

Isabella Muncan 1L Representative Section 4 Candidate

Hello everyone! My name is Isabella Muncan, and I am running to be your 1L Representative for Section 4. I am a Florida native and attended the University of Florida for undergrad. My experience serving as a Student Senator in college has shown me the power of communication and connection in effectuating change. As Chairwoman of the Rules and Ethics Committee, I attended weekly meetings to help pass a \$20,000,000 budget and my primary task was facilitating involvement between senators and students outside of the chamber through student organizations. Student organizations are the core of NYU Law and the work that students have been doing both at the law school and beyond has inspired me to work with and for you all.

As the 1L Representative for Section 4, I will guarantee everyone's opinion is heard by implementing an online suggestion box specifically for Section 4. I will strive to maintain and enhance healthy relationships between SBA and the student body by advocating for fair-mindedness and consideration of all concerns. Lastly, I hope to facilitate connections within our section by having more programming for the entirety of Section 4 and focusing on self-care for all students.



Neha Mehta 1L Representative Section 5 Candidate

Hi Section 5! I'll keep this short and simple because I know we all have tons of reading to do.

My name is Neha Mehta and I am running to be our section's SBA representative because I want to make sure all of you have an incredible 1L experience.

The community of students NYU Law attracts and cultivates makes our law school particularly special. And simply put, my goal is to be our cohort's biggest and strongest advocate. Having held positions in student government all throughout high-school and undergrad, I am well-aware of the commitment, passion, and collaboration needed to be an effective member in SBA. As representative, I hope to be the go-to person for any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have.

A few items already on my agenda are: informing students of the various academic services and professional resources offered by the university, organizing inter-section events, and creating a 1L alumni mentorship program.

I have already had the pleasure of getting to know many of the students in our section, and I really look forward to getting to know each of you better over the course of the year. I know we have a lot to offer and I hope to be our collective voice.

It would be a tremendous honor to serve as your section representative. Cheers to 1L of a ride!



Mauricio Angel LLM Representative Candidate

The world as we know it is facing new challenges. By enrolling at NYU School of Law we have decided to commit, to the best of our abilities, to become a new generation that is calling for awareness and effective positive change.

At this point, after a couple months, I've already had the gratifying opportunity of meeting most of you. I've come to recognize that you are all hard working and talented lawyers from all over the globe. If we still haven't met, then this is perfect timing. I come from Colombia and I'm standing before you to become your voice before the Student Bar Association (SBA) as LL.M. Representative for the Class of 2019.

I know this experience can be exciting as well as overwhelming. As LL.Ms we sometimes face cultural and language challenges, and even the burdens of finding proper channels for addressing our concerns. For this reason, I'm committing to all of you in order to build broader channels of communication for our community, strengthen representativeness and even implement mechanisms for the promotion of wellbeing.

I have witnessed the immense power of working together and as your future spokesman I am willing to put all of my best efforts to execute my duties and stand up for your needs.

Barack Obama said on his farewell speech that "... change only happens when ordinary people get involved, get engaged, and come together to demand it'. We have an opportunity to keep making positive changes. Give **me** the chance to become **us** with your vote.

Feel free to reach out at ima281@nyu.edu. **Remember is not we, not me!**



I Ting Liu LLM Representative Candidate

My name is I Ting Liu, currently in the Traditional LLM Program, and I am extremely excited to be running as your LLM Representative candidate for the Student Bar Association (“SBA”), and it will be a great honor to represent and advocate my fellow LLM students’ interest in a unified and cohesive manner.

The LLM experience thus far has been phenomenal. Throughout the first two weeks of Intro class, it was especially rewarding to meet culturally diverse individuals who, despite coming from different backgrounds, possess a collective passion and joy in their legal profession – all gathered in one single room. My interactions with everyone have been amazing, as I was able to learn about different cultures and ideas not only in an academic setting, but also through invitational social events, where everybody’s “fun” side really shines. This is how I know that my experience here will be highlight-worthy, especially with this cohort of people.

For me, maximizing everyone’s experience in the LLM Program is my top priority, and I believe that I am well-suited for this role as an LLM representative. I was born in Taiwan, raised in Thailand since the age of 5, attended an international school, and received an undergraduate degree in Business Law in Thammasat University in Bangkok. I have also stayed in Germany and Seattle as well. Also, I have a Belize passport too (approach me, I can show it to you). Due to my multi-cultured upbringing, I have interacted with and befriended people from all over the world, and my international exposure enables me to navigate and adapt different culture and ideas in a willing, open-minded manner.

Although everyone’s legal profession is separated by jurisdiction, each of us shares a common feature: to get the most out of this LLM year. As an LLM representative, I am always ready to listen to any issues and concerns that any LLM students may raise. Whether it is the lack of transition assistance into the U.S. Socratic Method style of instruction, or the need of more international social and professional events catered to LLM students, I am eager to facilitate the requests and make it a reality to the best of my ability.

It has only been a month into this LLM program, yet I already feel like this place is my second home, a home away from home, and I strive to make my home a better place.



Brónach Rafferty LLM Representative Candidate

Hi my name is Brónach Rafferty! You're probably reading my name and thinking 'she doesn't even go here.'¹ Surprise! I am an Irish LLM student, which segues seamlessly into my running for LLM Rep. I wanted to run a campaign based on limerick-like rhymes and glitter after accidentally buying a kilogram of the stuff last year. So here I go;

NYU pals, I know I'm no Drake, So no claim to rap stardom do I wish to make.
But what I wish to appeal to in this candidacy run,
Is both your inner lawyer and your conception of what's fun.
If experience and not logic is of life had by law,² Then mine's not too bad, for all that I saw.
In my uni in Dublin, I was on law review, And managed Events for the Vis Arts Soc too,
Cash dollah I sorted by way of fundraising,
When I was in charge of it for an Irish language thing.
A kilo of glitter I did once accidentally buy, I take it on nights out to help people look fly.
Then there was the time, when Hozier I wished to see,
But my getting a ticket was not meant to be.
So I went to the venue early, with my fiddle, dressed in black, And said I was with the band, so I
could get in through the back. But after half an hour, security threw me out,
But to similar lengths I would go to as LLM Rep, have no doubt.
So yes, plz vote for me, and my peculiar name,
My rhymes are poor I know, but hey, I have no shame.
My name it looks like 'brunch' so please make you vote for me, A vote for me is a vote, for
above mere mediocrity.³

(If that was above average on the amusement scale, but made no sense, I will translate.)
I am a friendly, sociable, easy-going individual who is good with people, and would be a strong
medium between the SBA and LLM class. I genuinely talk to everyone, which is advantageous
when it comes to being informed of and giving voice to any issues people may have. I have
much experience regarding similar roles of responsibility, having been elected to (wo)man
Events, Sponsorship, and Fundraising of various societies during my time at college pursuing my
undergrad law degree, in addition to being a senior editor of my College Law Review, and being
voted class valedictorian. I would demonstrate similar commitment and enthusiasm in the
capacity of class rep. I am very creative and have many ideas. Essentially, I want to integrate the
LLM and JD communities in a more thorough and harmonious way. I also want more good times
and less library times.

Vote Bró. Plz.

¹ Paramount Pictures Corporation. (2004). Mean girls.

² Anonymous [Holmes] 'Book Notices' (1880) 14 American Lawyer Review 233, 234 (authorship confirmed in Eleanor Little, 'The Early Readings of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes,' (1954) 8 Harvard Library Bulletin 163, 202).

³ [We had to put some of the poem's lines on the same line for formatting reasons – The SBA]



(to the right to the right, is me)

Andrea Stephanou LLM Representative Candidate

I am writing this letter to express my motivation to participate and be elected as an LLM Representative. Since high school I have always enjoyed being involved in different activities representing the school. I was elected president of student council, member of the honor society and selected to be part of the leadership group. Later on, while in Law School I represented the school in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Competition, which for the first time we won the exhibition rounds in Washington D.C. Once I started working I became part of the Women's Committee to promote women's professional leadership growth. We planned different events regarding this matter with clients and the attorneys at the firms which allowed us to expand the firms network with different companies.

I am very interested in the position since part of my goals during my LLM year is to continue participating in extracurricular activities, such as representing the LLM's in the Student Bar Association. I am an outgoing person that likes to contribute and plan fun events, meet new people and engage in different activities advocating for initiatives presented by the association in representation of the students. I am a committed responsible person in everything I engage in. Thus, I strongly believe I will be successful communicating any inquiries, promoting relevant events, and increasing student engagement.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stephanou.

LL.M Candidate 2018-2019



Olivia Poss Transfer Representative Candidate

My name is Olivia Poss and I am running for Transfer Representative. I am a 2L and recent transfer student to NYU Law from UC Irvine in Southern California. At my past law school, I was involved in various student groups and pro bono initiatives on campus. It is my goal to bring this same enthusiasm for involvement in student affairs to NYU. Being a transfer student is exciting, but at times can be challenging. Having just gone through this process (and arguably still figuring things out), I can say that while NYU Law is supportive of transfer students, there are definitely initiatives that could be undertaken to make this transition easier, especially for students who are coming from different parts of the country. I think there are concerns that are unique to transfer students, and I hope I can be the person that fields these concerns and can do something about them. I am excited by the prospect of giving this growing community a voice. Thank you for your time and consideration.

