

Student Senator



Dear Colleagues:

My name is Carolyn Cole (2L, JD) and I am asking for your vote to continue serving as your Student Senator. During my tenure, I have built relationships with the current SBA Executive Board, welcomed incoming students at numerous orientation activities, and supported the establishment of new campus organizations and initiatives, such as the NYU chapter of the Legal Aid Society. I am a fierce advocate for our community and I am committed to revamping the law school experience to reflect the diversity of students and provide opportunities for students to take ownership of their education. The following are just a few ways that I would like to achieve this mission:

- **Improve career services.** As our economy changes, the law school must do more than present a public interest/law firm dichotomy. Many students would like to know more about nontraditional uses for law degrees. We can do more to tap into the other graduate schools to provide more comprehensive career services.
- **Promote a culture of diversity and inclusion.** I personally know how uncomfortable it can be when there is a lack of cultural competency in the classroom. I know we can improve cultural competency through the curriculum and through the pedagogy. I will work to encourage more diversity in reading assignments and guiding questions in classroom discussions.
- **Partner with the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development to find ways to enhance student learning.** We can help students achieve in the classroom by recognizing and appealing to different learning styles.
- **Improve LLM and JD student relationships.** As the Student Senator, I represent LLM and JD students. I will work closely with the LLM representative to find ways to collaborate and socialize.
- **Increase communication and transparency.** I will provide minutes to Student Senators Council (SSC) and University Committee on Student Life (UCSL) meetings to be included in the SBA emails. I welcome you to email me any time at cjc648@nyu.edu with your concerns. I will also make myself available every month in Golding Lounge to discuss your concerns about University matters.

I am uniquely qualified to help bring this vision to life because my background is in education and I am active in several organizations on campus. My experience has given me the tools to engage, the knowledge to make suggestions for improvements to the curriculum and school culture, and the tact to work effectively with educators and administrators despite differences in perspectives. I am organized, efficient, and I strive to serve. I am unafraid to publicly address the issues that are most important to you and it is a privilege to be able to advocate on your behalf at the University level. On September 24th and 25th, please vote Carolyn Cole for Student Senator.

1L Representative

Na'eem Crawford-Muhammad – Candidate for Section 1 Representative



To my fellow first-years and esteemed classmates of Section 1:

Through this letter, I announce my candidacy to be your Representative to the Student Bar Association.

Since we're all adults, I won't bore you with fanciful promises to radically alter the landscape of the Law School. This institution stands among the world's finest and we're all proud to be here. Instead, I will work with you to ensure that your voice is heard in issues affecting your academic livelihood and to help address the more common concerns that can have an outsized impact on our first-year experience. As students, we're making significant investments in our education and I'd like to be a resource for us to ensure that we get the maximum return.

Having worked and lived in New York City my entire life, including serving three years in municipal government and another three at a major international foundation headquartered here, I'm confident I have both the necessary experience and demonstrated skillset to get things done. When you think about it, student government is a lot like local government. In both, a representative must take direct feedback from constituents, act on that feedback in a timely and reasonable manner, and build consensus to deliver results for broad constituent groups with sometimes competing concerns. I know I can do this, because I've done it before.

In 2009, I was an original staffer in an innovative new unit of the New York City Mayor's Office that was tasked with incorporating, as part of program design, citizen service strategies to move the needle against our city's most pressing challenges. In this role, we launched nearly 40 unique initiatives that embraced new solutions and new ways of doing things. Innovation was more than a buzzword, but an outcome-focused and data-driven approach to providing increased value for all New Yorkers. Successes included reforming New York's long-standing CPR Training Program to train 50,000 New Yorkers in hands-only CPR to improve our city's cardiac arrest survival rate and matching low-income New Yorkers with pro bono legal representation to help those in danger of foreclosure to remain in their homes.

As your 1L Representative, I will bring the same dedication, openness to new ideas, and measurable success to the role. So, when you cast your ballot on September 24th and 25th, please think about the type of law school experience you'd like to have and how we might work together to make that a reality. I know that you and I together will make a winning team.

Your friend in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Na'eem Crawford-Muhammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Na'eem Crawford-Muhammad

Cassie Averbuch – Candidate for Section 2 Representative



For those of you whom I haven't yet met, my name is

Cassie Averbuch

and I would like to represent our section as your 1L Representative for **Section 2**. As we endeavor to make NYU our home for the next three years, I welcome your thoughts and input to ensure that I have a constant pulse on our section's wants and needs.

Community

Community means many different things to many different people – ranging from physical social units with firefighters, policemen, doctors, etc. necessary to its functionality, to membership in organizations or sports teams, to religious or other belief groups.

To me, a community is a welcoming environment that promotes trust, teamwork, accountability, productivity, and respect. I have always been invested in connecting people to create and advance communities. This has manifested itself in various forms – from serving as a member of Duke's residential student government and class council, to serving on the executive board of the orientation program, to bringing people from diverse backgrounds together for weekly potluck dinners while living abroad after college. I seek to **foster a strong sense of community within our section** through advocacy and programming to **create an invigorating environment in and outside of the classrooms** (or should I say “classroom” singular – good ol' VH 218).

Advocacy

Many of my successes have derived from my ability to empower others. I spent two years teaching elementary school in an underprivileged charter school in Brooklyn through Teach For America. I realized early on that I would only achieve the enduring impact I hoped for if I empowered my students and their parents to advocate for their education, rights and interests.

As we embark on our legal education, I seek **to empower our section to make sure our NYU experiences meet (and hopefully exceed) our expectations.** I am **approachable and eager to listen** to your thoughts and ideas so that we can **advocate for them together.** I am an effective leader who can interact productively with fellow peers and administrators. I conduct myself with composure and grace, even when faced with difficult and demanding situations. These skills will be essential in this role.

Programming

I seek to create spaces for **people to connect** through a range of **fun and inclusive social opportunities that reflect the diverse interests of our section.** Through my past experiences planning events (including Homecoming, concerts, study breaks, Alumni Reunions, retreats, banquets, etc.), I have learned to bring zeal and creativity to programming, to manage resources and to pay careful attention to every detail. I will channel these skills to provide opportunities for our section to get to know each other and other students and faculty in the NYU community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Remember to vote on September 24 & 25!

Dana Wellesly-Stein – Candidate for Section 2 Representative



Hi all! To those of you I have not yet met, my name is Dana Wellesly-Stein and it is nice to virtually meet you! As I'm sure you can tell, I would like to be Section 2's 1L Representative to the SBA.

While I was collecting the requisite signatures to be eligible for this election, I spoke with a number of you who were not quite sure what the SBA does or how it is relevant to us 1Ls. As your future representative, I'll take this opportunity to explain. The SBA, or Student Bar Association, is the student government at NYU Law. While the majority of students know the SBA as the sponsor of the beloved Thursday night Bar Reviews, it is also responsible for serving as a liaison between the students and the administration, for

budgeting the student body's money and allocating it to the various student groups, and especially for advocating for students' wants and needs, no matter how big or small.

Although we are only a few weeks into the school year, I do have a few suggestions as to some changes or improvements that might be beneficial to us all. These ideas include creating resources for forming study groups, obtaining tips and advice from our professors' past students and creating further opportunities for social activities, both within our section and across the entire 1L class. I'd be happy to speak with you in more detail, if desired. However, as the representative from our section, my job, in particular, will be to serve as a voice for each and every one of you. With that being said, I'd like to focus on your ideas rather than my own. What opportunities do you want to have over the course of your 1L year? How can the school administration and the SBA better serve your needs? I'd love to hear your thoughts, both in person and through an anonymous online survey I will set up!

The next three years will provide many opportunities for us to grow intellectually, socially, individually and communally. As we collectively make our way through the rigorous and often intimidating 1L year, I challenge each of you to think about how to improve and perfect our institution and the time we have here. Likewise, please challenge me to do my best to work toward those goals alongside you. I promise I'll respond with an emphatic, NPH-inspired "Challenge Accepted!"

Lisa Okragly – Candidate for Section 3 Representative



After obtaining my undergraduate degree in Accounting, with a minor in Political Science, I went on to receive my CPA in the state of New York and my MBA in Finance and International Business. During this time period, I also worked as an Auditor and Tax Accountant for three years at Consolidated Edison Company of New York.

Throughout those years, I held numerous leadership positions in various clubs and committees. As an undergraduate student, I was Treasurer of the Rutgers Performance Dance Company where I was responsible for all of the finances of the organization. As a professional at ConEdison, I was the committee chair of the Lessons Learned Committee, which was created to spread environmental, health, and safety awareness, and also address concerns of employees in these areas. As a committee we coordinated tours of various facilities to address safety and environmental issues, issued a monthly newsletter, attended schools within New York to speak to children about safety, and held monthly meetings where employees could address their concerns. These concerns were filtered to the appropriate individuals for solutions to be initiated and were then communicated back to the employees through the committee.

My experience throughout college and my accounting career has provided me with the necessary skills to be a reliable representative for **Section 3**. I have experience in working with individuals at the decision making level and have been effective in ensuring that employee's voices are heard. I am confident that as the Section 3 representative I will also be able to provide a voice for the students. I believe that no concern is too small to be addressed and offer all students the opportunity to be heard.

Alexandra P. Serre – Candidate for Section 3 Representative



Hi Section 3,

My name is Alexandra (although you may have met me as Ahlee or Alex, or all three) and I am running for our section 3 representative. For those of you who do not know me I was the lucky victim of the first cold-call within the first 5 minutes of Issacharoff's second class. You may recognize me by the terrified look on my face. While I found myself to be at a loss for words that day, I won't be when representing our section. Many of you must know by now that our section is great, no actually THE greatest. You guys are the most interesting and accomplished people here (seriously when I talk to you guys I wonder to myself "what have I done with my life?"). I want to make sure that our 1L year is enriching in every way possible. While due process and intentional torts are important, I think that bar review and social gatherings are just as important for our 1L year (how else are we fully going to understand negligence?). I am running for this position because I want to represent all of your wants and needs as a section and as individuals. It's my goal to get to know each and every one of you better that way I can better

represent us. I'm an approachable person, seriously do not be afraid to come talk to me and tell me what upsets you or makes you happy and I will do all that I can to help! I have many ideas of things that we could do, including free coffee and bagel study sessions and section trips to go discover parts of NYC. I can't promise that I will always have the best ideas or that these ideas will pass, but I can promise that I will not put an idea out there without getting your input first. Your input is clutch to our section thriving above the others. I also promise that, if elected, I will do my best to find the answer to one of the most important questions we will encounter this year, are Professor Eigen and Louis C.K. related? Thank you for hearing me out and I hope to be able to represent all of you!

Cole Stevens – Candidate for Section 4 Representative



We have enough reading—I don't want to add too much to it.

You should vote for me because I'll be a forceful and effective advocate for Section 4. I am ready and willing to hear your concerns. More drink tickets for bar review? Discretion for group and event budgets? Staplers at every campus printing station? No issue will ever be too minor.

I already have extensive experience in boring meetings from my time in local politics. I will speak up for our section so that you don't have to.

Alex Walker – Candidate for Section 4 Representative



Hi everyone – my name is Alex and I’m running to represent the 1L **Section 4**. If I don’t know you already, please feel free to come and introduce yourself to me! I’m running because I think I will be able to do a good job of evaluating issues, listening to people’s perspectives, and making reasoned decisions. I have been described as “pretty level-headed,” and I will try to live up to that. I think the art of politics is building consensus in favor of policies, which requires hearing and responding to diverse perspectives in a constructive way.

About myself: I’m from Northern California, but I went to undergrad in Portland, Oregon.¹ In undergrad, I worked for the student newspaper and regularly reported on the student body government. After graduating, I stayed in Portland for two years in order to work as a policy analyst for a trade organization of electric utilities, where I got a first-hand perspective on the politics of the Bonneville Power Administration and the utility industry generally. My organization had to represent the interests of a diverse group of electric utilities, some large and urban and many small and rural, and help them find common ground on policy issues despite their different situations and the personalities involved.

¹ I feel it’s important to note that the last syllable in “Oregon” sounds like “in,” not “on.”

Staci Cox – Candidate for Section 5 Representative



My name is Staci Cox, and I would love to represent you as your **Section 5 Representative**. As the known “social section,” we have a reputation to maintain. I think we have done well thus far. Our section is wonderful. Our diversity and vibrancy is reflected in the classroom and beyond. Both individually and collectively, we all have so much to bring to our law school. It’s been great meeting so many of you as we explore the balance between doing well our first year and everything else that’s important in life. I would be honored to build on our momentum as your representative and your voice on the SBA board.

For those of you that I haven’t had the pleasure to meet yet, here’s a little bit about me. I’m originally from Troy, Michigan and spent the past seven years in Washington, DC. I graduated from American University in 2011 and worked for Congress for approximately three years. Working for such an interesting body showed me the importance of having quality representation. Each day served as a powerful reminder that our words and our actions have a real impact. Working for Congress, I was responsible for reflecting the concerns of the Congresswoman and her constituency in everything that I did. My experience in DC was challenging, rewarding, and humbling as a spokeswoman for so many important issues. I would be honored to continue this experience while serving you.

This election will last only a few moments in comparison to the three years we will be spending together. It’s important that we continue to support each other, solidify our friendships, and stay the course as we enrich our section and the greater NYU law school body. I’m excited for our section, for the school year, and for the positive impact we will have here and beyond NYU’s doors. Cheers to Section 5 and our success, both today and tomorrow.

LLM Representative

Luis Maria Clouet – Candidate for LLM Representative



Since I don't want to add any more reading to you, I promise that this won't be long.

My name is Luis Maria Clouet and I'm running to represent the LLM Class in the Student Bar Association (SBA).

Beyond throwing parties, which I think is the LLM group's driving moral imperative so far, let me tell you that the SBA works with the administration and student body on a mass of issues, including the budget and new faculty appoints.

If elected, I pledge myself to bring all of your questions and concerns to the administration and make sure that you get the answers and information you're looking for. My aim is to represent your concerns to the SBA, and work hard to develop an appropriate solution for each of those.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting so many of the LLM students, but I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the coming year. I believe that this group has a lot to offer to the NYU Law community. Thus, I would be honored to serve as LLM representative.

If you have any questions about my candidacy, please feel free to contact me. As I said, it would be a huge honor to serve as your LLM representative this year, and I hope I can count on your vote.

Finally, please bear in mind that elections are held on September 24 and 25 through a online voting system, so if you can take a minute to vote with just a few clicks (whoever it happens to be for), that would be great.

Many thanks and best regards,

Luis

Karn Bhardwaj– Candidate for LLM Representative



Hey guys! My name is Karn Bhardwaj and I am from New Delhi, India. I am running for the position of the LL.M. Representative of the Student Bar Association, and I need YOUR support to win!

First off, I can't stress enough that the LL.M. Representative is YOUR representative on the committee of the Student Bar Association. Therefore, it's most important that whoever takes on the role realizes the importance and the responsibility of it. I am confident that I am well suited for this responsibility and will do my utmost to deliver on the expectations of my peers in the LL.M. Program.

One of the strengths of NYU is that it attracts people from all over the world, and from all kinds of backgrounds and histories. We've seen this in our courses, and we've been repeatedly told that our best resource is our peers! I truly believe that this is a fascinating aspect of pursuing further education here, and hope that I will make as many friends as possible by the end of my degree.

Being from New Delhi, India, I have firsthand experience of what it is to be a stranger in a new city, especially one as busy as New York. Prior to coming to NYU, I have practiced in India as a lawyer for a year, and, spent the six years preceding that pursuing two degrees as the University of Warwick in England. Therefore, not only do I have extensive experience being a stranger, I also have vast experience as a student (which is almost entirely to blame for my alcoholism!).

While the SBA organizes many events here, I personally did not know it existed until after the first couple of weeks, and that is something I would want to change for LL.M.s We all saw the effort that NYU made for welcoming the JD students, including the massive party next to the Silver Center at Washington Square; while most of us LL.M.s were welcomed with a two week course involving assignments and exams. If elected, I will ensure that the interests of the LL.M. students are significantly weighed into organizing social and professional events and that we have the opportunity, and incentive, to make the most of the events that the SBA offers NYU Law as a whole, which includes LL.M.s.

I also have prior experience in being on organizing committees and representing the interests of students. At Warwick, I was part the executive committee of two extremely active societies – the Warwick Law Society (for 2 years) and the Warwick Careers Skills Society (for 1 year). I, therefore, have extensive experience in the process and concerns that surface in organizing events for students to help them make the most of their university experience. With that in mind, I want represent the interests of the LLM students before the SBA, and do it in a reciprocal manner, to represent the views of each side of the table!

I do hope you vote for me! Thank you!