Section 1 Representative

Emily Ellis

I am seeking the office of Section 1 representative. I firmly believe that the students in our 1L class have insights and ideas that can shape our time at NYU Law in a remarkable way. As representative, I would eagerly listen to the thoughts and concerns of Section 1 students to ensure the best possible 1L experience.

I believe I am well suited for this position because I know that to be an effective representative, you must be an engaged listener. If elected, I would hold weekly office hours for students to come discuss any concerns or issues. I will then represent the concerns to the SBA, and work hard to develop an appropriate solution.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting so many of the students in Section 1, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the coming year. This group of individuals is extraordinary and has a lot to offer to the NYU Law community. I would be honored to serve as Section 1 representative.

Chris Porcelli

At its core, law is about leadership. As we work through this experience together, we will, at times, need to vest our trust in individuals who are willing to lead. Leadership matters and bringing people together to work and to advocate is the key to being a successful section representative.

Christopher Porcelli has a successful track record of leading. Being the Vice-President of a campus-wide coalition in college, captaining sports teams, and having internship experience in both the public and private sector, Chris has the skills to bring people together for successful teams. He knows that, as a section, we will need to be our own advocates with professors and administrators and he will work to build the bridges we need to get things done.
This won’t be long because I don’t want to add to anyone’s reading.

I’m running to represent our section in the Student Bar Association because I think I could do a good job of it. Beyond throwing parties, which I think is the group’s driving moral imperative, the SBA works with the administration and student body on a host of issues, including the budget and new faculty hires. To be sure, the scope of a 1L’s power of suggestion is limited, but given that I was here as an undergraduate and am familiar working within NYU’s distinct flavor of bureaucracy, I could learn quickly how to effect some change.

What I hope to achieve is representing our concerns and voices in a conversation with the rest of the school.

This is a great institution and I am wholly invested in it. It really would be a privilege to be able to represent us, so I hope you’ll vote for me. And I resisted the urge to crack a joke about estop and frisk or something equally unfunny, so that has to count for at least a little.
Section 2!

I am Courtney Weisman, and I am running to be your Section 2 representative. I’m really looking forward to getting to know all of you over the next year and can’t wait to represent you at the SBA.

Some boring basics about me: I am from Florida, went to the University of Florida, and worked on Obama’s education reform initiative after I graduated. Yes, I did meet Bo, and honestly, he’s a little pretentious.

On to more important things: You! Being a good representative requires getting to know each of you and determining what you want from your 1L year. Having held positions in student government, I understand the commitment necessary to be an effective representative and will always advocate on your behalf. I envision this role to be entirely about communication. I will bring all of your questions and concerns to the administration and will make sure you get the answers and information you’re looking for. But I also know that a lot of what will make this year bearable is getting the chance to relax, get to know each other, and have some fun, and I will make sure that is a priority with the SBA as well.

Most importantly, to show my dedication to the cause, I’ve already gotten a tattoo that says “Section 2 for life.” No regrets.
My name is Manny Antunes, and I want to be our 1L section’s representative to the SBA. The SBA is the only student group on campus that can truly claim to represent the entire law school body. Because of that, it serves as our voice to the administration. I want to be our section’s voice.

A little bit about myself: I grew up in Newark, NJ, and I am never embarrassed to say that. However, a piece of my heart is in this city, because my grandmother lived two blocks away from campus for 30 years before she passed away. After graduating college, I did Teach for America in my hometown and taught American History to high school students for 2 years before applying to law school.

I am no stranger to the workings of student government. During undergrad, I served on both the undergraduate council and on HoCo (my dorm’s student committee). On the undergraduate council, I served on the Finance Committee for three years, where we were responsible for setting up a $1.5M budget for the school year and dispersed those funds to student groups, so that they could keep doing the great events that they planned. On HoCo, I served for three years as a representative for my dorm section and planned great events, including weekly stein clubs (our equivalent of bar review), dances, and fundraisers. Because of these experiences, I have an eye for financing student events and making ideas become a reality.

My actions on the SBA will be directed by what our section wants and needs. I will represent us on the council for all issues from the mundane (2-ply toilet paper in the campus bathrooms) to the important (event funding and planning). For example, many other students have expressed some dissatisfaction with orientation. Although many of the events were great and informative, there were few mixers that brought the whole 1L class together and there were no events that prepared us for law school life. I would ask the council to collaborate on creating more social and practical events, like tours of the school, a 1L bar review, and a crash course on useful services provided by the university. I have plenty of ideas, but I will be relying on our section to voice any concerns people have. My job will be to make sure those get addressed.
Hi I’m Nonny Onyekweli and I am running to be the 1L rep for section 3. Friendly, energetic, and organized, would be a few words that I would use to describe myself, in addition to 3 traits you would want your representative to have. I enjoy talking to people and pride myself in being a great communicator. In the past I have had leadership positions similar to this and I understand what I need to do in order to be an effective representative.

I plan on listening and conveying questions/concerns members of our section have to the SBA. Between constantly reading, outlining, highlighting, post-it noting, and in between all of this some minor panic attacks, us 1Ls need to have NYU provide us with the optimum environment so we can do out best. I plan on doing whatever I can to facilitate this. I have already heard that 2 ply toilet paper in the law school bathrooms is a priority for some Section 3-ers. I will be sure to introduce this idea to SBA ASAP.
Section 4 Representative

Katie Smith

Hi Section 4!

My name is Katie Smith, and I’m running for Section 4 Representative because I want to make sure you have the best 1L and law school experience at NYU Law.

I have loved my experience at NYU Law so far, and I want to do all I can to ensure that you have the best resources and opportunities to make the most of your time here.

A little about myself: Originally from the small green state to the north, Vermont, I’ve spent the past decade living in NYC. After graduating from Barnard College of Columbia University, I worked for the ACLU LGBT Project for 2 years. Then I spent 3 years working as a policy aide and LGBT Liaison for Congressman Jerry Nadler. I worked on his behalf to push for the needs of his constituents on different urban policy issues, negotiating with other elected officials, city agencies, university officials, real estate developers, etc. Right before coming to law school, I spent 6 months managing an undergraduate study abroad program, serving as a liaison between students and faculty, ensuring that students had the best information and resources to get the most out of their learning experience.

All of which is to say, I’ve had a lot of experience working to solve problems, advocate for others, and make people less Grumpy Cat, more happy! I would love to represent the 1L Section 4 community on the SBA because I believe it is critical that we have a strong voice advocating
our concerns and representing our interests to the NYU Law administration. I have the experience to be that strong voice and work with other law students and the administration to develop effective solutions and keep us a happy community.

As the weeks pass and we start to dread exams (or look forward to a month of reading buzzfeed lists about cute animals, and nothing else), I want to be the go-to person for your concerns and suggestions for making our experience together better.

I look forward to getting to know all of you as the semester progresses.

Please vote for me for 1L Section 4 Rep!
Hey Section 5!

If we haven’t met (me bad), my name is Daniel and I’m running to be your Representative to the SBA from Section 5. Real quick about me: I’m a Korean-American from Los Angeles (La Crescenta, to be precise), 3 years out of college, and worked in a weird mix of policy and education (which continue to be my interests).

I believe that I’m the best candidate for Student Rep because – simply put – I’ll get stuff done.

Here’s what I stand for:
1) I’m for clarity: Sometimes professors and administrators will value brevity or efficiency over clarity and transparency. That’s not okay, and I’ll make sure that things are always clear.
2) I’m for inter-session mixers: I believe that 450 is better than 90. Our section is amazing, but I think we all wouldn’t mind meeting people outside of our section.
3) I’m for library safety: But not by ticketing students. I think it’s unfair that we can’t go out for a drink of water without risking a fine. And why is the water fountain so far...?
4) I’m for puppies: I love dogs (for the record, kittens are great too). In any case, I’ll work to make sure that you’re not disappointed on Puppy Day.
5) I’m for Section 5: In the end, I’ll be a tireless advocate for Section 5. I’ll listen and advocate for what you want to see from NYU. No excuses.

I don’t want to bore you with a resume (you can probably find it online), but for 3 years after college, I’ve been an advocate in some form or another, and I’ve been very successful at it. I think I end up doing it because I love it and because I’m committed to the idea that people’s opinions matter (crazy, I know...).

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.
Hey Sectionmates!

First off, it’s been great meeting most of you and for those I haven’t had the chance to meet but will soon, I’m Shane and I’m happy to be in the running for 1L Section Rep. Thank God this personal statement is a hell of a lot less stressful than Law School personal statements. Before I say anything else, I’ll say that I love Dan Cheung so I’m looking forward to one of us representing our great Section. Win/Win. Anddd this will be really awkward if someone else is running and I didn’t realize it.

I’m running for Section Rep essentially because I believe in having happy colleagues and friends. I know I sure don’t want to suffer through class and social events with a bunch of miserable people, so it’s vital we’re enjoying our Law School experience. This of course includes all aspects of Law school from academics to social functions. For example... if last night after reading cases about a quadriplegic accident, death by beating and child abuse I had just gone to bed, I would have been a miserable person today. Thus, it was definitely time for a beer. Thanks Courtyard Kegger! Every aspect is important.

I will say that I’m a huge advocate of student organizations. These orgs will undoubtedly make a lot of our law school experiences and give us the chance to practice our legal skills and hone in on issues important to us. Advocating for more orgs, funding and opportunities will be a top priority. I have experience working directly with administration as an undergrad and working in a bureaucratic setting afterwards that will allow me to be confident in effectively communicating our ideas to the administration and getting things done for the student body. On the more social side, I’d also like to create some kind of giant competition between the Sections, so we can shamelessly assert our dominance. Trivia? Athletics? Eating Competition? Mud Wrestling? A work in progress, but it will happen.
I believe as the Representative I should be representing your ideas and not just my own. Whether it’s communicating ideas about grading policies, class offerings and colloquia to the administration or determining what bar we should go to for Bar Review, everything has its respective place in a holistic Law School experience. I’ll be proactive in advocating for our Section so long as you don’t want to sue the law school because you’re a ridiculous person and read too much into a cereal box.

As we chose NYU for a reason, it’s vital we make big things happen here (think Professor Miller eyebrows BIG). So think big Section 5 and talk to me about what you want to see from NYU Law. Any time you have something you’d like to discuss, I’m more than willing to meet over a beer or coffee, or you can just hit me up after class. I live in D’ag and will always be around the law school to talk, especially in the coming months because I’m from Florida and scared of the cold.

It’s been great getting to know the Section and I’d be proud to represent every one of you… and yes my man Ben in the front row, even Quakers if we have them.
Greetings fellow transfers! It's been about a month since we first met and it's so far been a blast. My goal as your transfer representative will be to make sure that our 2L year is better and to work out some of the transition kinks for next year's group of transfers. That includes improvements to how transfers do EIW/OCI, housing, curriculum, and orientation.

We're in a special position to become involved in our community -- we come to NYU knowing how at least one other law school does things. We know what our 1L school did well and what it didn't. I'm most interested in hearing your reactions, ideas, suggestions, and comments to make this year the best possible -- to make it less of a 2Hell.

Even though law school can be taxing and exhausting, I've loved my experience so far and I think every student deserves to say the same.
I want to keep this statement short and simple.

I am someone who likes talking and listening to people. And while that might be the worst and most cliché second sentence in the history of personal statements, I would really like to stress that there is nothing I like more than our social LLM events where thousands of nationalities, ideas, languages and interests gather. As a result, I have met many of you and I believe I am a familiar face in our group. I guess that is quite essential in becoming a representative, since the biggest part of what I will be doing is trying to direct your questions or remarks to the law school.

While collecting your signatures, many of you asked: so what are you going to change? The honest answer is: nothing substantial. I’m not going to make any progress in our collective struggle against astronomic tuition fees. I’m not going to be capable of banning Friday morning classes. Probably I’m even going to fail in getting the mice out of Mercer. But I will be around and I will genuinely try to guide your complaints or questions in the good direction. And I promise that – together with Vasudha and Chris or whoever’s applying or being elected – I will organize awesome events. I am thinking about open-mic nights, concerts for the awesome LLM rock ‘n roll band in the Vanderbilt Courtyard, a chance for the LLM football team to destroy our JD counterpart, an epic final party in Spring (Radiohead is contacted) etcetera etcetera etcetera.

It would be nice if you would make all these wonderful things happen. Yes, you can!
Christopher Nairn

LLM life at NYU: it is a unique mix of excitement, confusion, drama, and hard work. Opportunities are vast, and many of us find ourselves in situations which perhaps we could not even have imagined ourselves being in, perhaps even a year or so ago. What is so incredible about this mix of individuals is the diversity that comes with it. I have been here for about six weeks now and have learned much about international law from some of the most eminent professors in their field, but have undoubtedly learned a hundred times more than this from you guys; the LLMs. I want to bring that diversity to the Student Bar Association; I want to represent what I have learned from you all so far, continue to learn from you all, and work to have our individual and collective voices to be heard.

I have had the pleasure of organizing (I still can’t get used to spelling everything with a “z”) many LLM gatherings, and no doubt will continue to do so regardless of whether you vote for me or not. But my desire to run for the position of LLM representative is a direct result of these interactions. Being in the company of you other LLMs makes me proud to be part of the NYU community, and I would be especially proud to be your representative.

As I know we now find ourselves in the middle of an extremely busy schedule, thank you for taking the time to read, and thanks especially to you who find the time to vote for me.
Vasudha Sathanapally

Because it’s the U.S. and they say things like this in the movies: I’m Vasudha Sathanapally and I’m running for LL.M. Rep.

For those of you who aren’t aware, the Student Bar Association is looking for 3 LL.M.s to represent the class of 2014. You are all busy folk so I will keep this short and sweet.

The role is basically to work with the other JDs on the SBA to make this year as fun, rewarding and inclusive as possible. I can’t promise to arrange for a refund of your tuition (as several of you have already requested), but if you trust me to use the designated party-planning budget wisely, I would love to have your vote.

For those of you who don’t know me, or many of the other candidates, I would just add that the LL.M. Reps are there to represent everyone in our year. If I end up getting voted in, I can assure you that you will have a friendly and very approachable Rep that will always happy to hear your ideas or concerns.

Elections are next Wednesday and Thursday online – if you can take a minute to vote (whoever it happens to be for), that would be great. Feel free to vote for Chris, Dimitri and Francisco who are also running – I think they would make great Reps as well!
To my fellow LL.Mers

I know what you guys want: Free drinks and food (yes, it always goes at the first place), 36 hours a day so you can both finish readings and attend various appealing social events, an exciting and enjoyable year in the Big Apple, a six-figure—if not seven—job at Big Laws, a (much) cheaper tuition.

If I were elected as the LL.M Representative in the Student Bar Association (SBA), I would promise, sorry to say that, only one or two of the above, while filing the rest under the label “working in progress”.

For those who belong to the 40% of our class I haven’t had the honor to meet yet, here is some brief self-introduction and qualifications:

1. I am Chinese. I got my LL.B in China, and LL.M in Japan. I had worked in a Japanese law firm in Tokyo for a couple of years before coming to NYU.

2. I am a regular runner, jogging two to three time a week along Hudson River now.

3. I love meeting new people. Actually that’s why I think we came here to NYU. It is (arguably) even more important than study.

4. I have been living in foreign countries for the past six years. I know how it feels to be in a totally new environment and what is needed to make best out of an adventure.
5. I was the president in an international student governing body back in Japan, organizing various sports and social events.

It is always easy to make big promise in a campaign. I can’t promise world peace here, but in all seriousness, I would surely fulfill the following should I got elected:

1. I would serve as the earnest information collector who is always only a phone call away. I don’t know how you fellows feel about NYU for the last one month, I just feel like there is always a flood of events, both academic and social, coming to our inbox or (suddenly) appearing in every corner of NYU homepage every day. If I were elected, I would devote myself to collecting and organizing those information, probably with helps more experienced folks in Law School and by attending the weekly SBA meetings. If you ever feel you are missing something big, always feel free to drop me a message at zhong.xueyin@nyu.edu.

2. Communications with JDs is an issue for most LL.Ms and of course LL.M Representative candidates. I would propose to first start with listing up all mixers with JDs together and encouraging our LL.M folks to join. Further, I deeply believe the LL.Ms’ experience in international law firms and in various industries and counties are actually greatly valuable to JDs and fellow LL.Ms. I would propose to hold a forum where experienced lawyers from different countries in our LL.M community could share their knowledge in their home country, which information I believe would be useful and valuable to both JDs and LL.Ms.

As a Chinese, I would never want to miss a chance of election, for I totally don’t know when I could be a legitimate candidate in an election next time. I also cannot encourage you enough to take your (probably) only chance to vote in NYU. No matter who you vote, it will increase the legitimacy of our LL.M Representatives. Of course, it would be better if you chose me.