

Personal Statement of William Gray

Ever since I was born I have suffered from a chronic illness. The doctors informed my mother that she should take me home and enjoy her baby while she had the opportunity. I defied the odds and survived. I still suffer from a multitude of problems, and I am presently on several medications to control the functions of my heart.

I performed well in my academics throughout my years of primary school. Even though I was able to graduate in the top ten percent of my high school class, due to my continued health issues, there were still those who doubted my ability to obtain a college education. Even members of my own family said I would never be successful in life and consigned me to the life of an invalid. Much to their surprise, I not only graduated from East Carolina University, but I have finished my first year of law school at Campbell University.

I feel much of my success in the attainment of my goals can be attributed to hard work and perseverance. Throughout my academic career, I have learned an extraordinary amount about the importance of dedication and attention to detail. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to act as a leader in several capacities. Throughout this I have found nothing as fulfilling as setting out a strategy and following it through to achieve predetermined goals.

I believe that I have the experience and ability that it requires to be an effective Vice Chair of the Law Student Division. I possess unique perspective and ambition to contribute to the continuing success of the American Bar Association if chosen to be the individual to serve in this important position.

In the past I have had the opportunity to help in fundraising for various charitable organizations. I have sold tickets to help fund a scholarship maintained by my Masonic Lodge. I

was also recognized by my high school as the top earner for sales of sponsorships in our school's yearbook. Throughout these experiences I have had in fundraising and sales I have consistently been told one thing: "Will Gray, you could sell oil to a snake!" (Granted the phraseology would most likely be different had I not been in rural North Carolina!)

I will bring that same determination and drive which propelled me to success in academics, as well as the persuasive ability I have relied on in my history working with fundraising, to the position of Vice Chair. Without membership recruitment any organization would have increasingly less ability to make an impact. This is true for any entity whether it is a business, school, club, or professional organization.

I have an understanding of the importance of organization and delegation of assignments to increase productivity. If chosen to serve as the Vice Chair, I would endeavor to increase the membership of American Bar Association. I have a strong passion to work hard and succeed. In the course of my assorted responsibilities, when carrying out assignments I have been given, I have always been the person who would be the first to arrive and the last to leave. I am a "people person." I have had the opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with some of the best people one could ever meet. I have already successfully lobbied the Dean of my school to enroll all students in the American Bar Association, and I am working to help other students see the benefits of premium membership.

If given the chance, I will apply myself as hard as ever to ensure that we members of the American Bar Association do all we can to increase not only the quantity of our members, but also the quality of our members. I hope to have the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair of the Law Student Division. This will enable me to serve others as we strive together to make the American Bar Association the best and most successful it can be.

William R. Gray Jr.

Campbell University
Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law
Raleigh, North Carolina

EDUCATION

Campbell University School of Law, Raleigh, NC

Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2019

Activities and Awards: Dean's Excellence Academic Scholarship; American Bar Association platinum member; J. Reuben Clark Law Society; Old Kivett Advocacy Council.

East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Bachelor of Science, Political Science, minor Business Administration. Graduated December 2015.

Activities and Awards: Dean's List.

Lenoir Community College, Kinston, NC

Associate of Liberal Arts. Graduated May 2012.

Activities and Awards: Dean's List.

EXPERIENCE

North Carolina National Guard, Raleigh, NC

Summer Intern, Office of the Judge Advocate General

Summer 2017

- Position procured. Begin work July 2017.

American Bar Association

Student Representative

May 2017-present

- Acts as liaison and students of Campbell Law

Perry, Perry & Perry Attorneys, Kinston, NC

Intern

May 2012-February 2014

- Handled preparation of real estate contracts.
- Prepared information for discovery in family law cases.
- Assisted with depositions in personal injury case.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Raleigh YSA Ward, Apex NC.

Executive Secretary

June 2016-January 2017

- Handled all scheduling, reporting, and organization under direction of the Bishop

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Woodington Ward, Kinston NC.

Stake Sunday School Secretary

October 2014-August 2015

- Oversaw training, reporting, and instruction of Sunday School leadership in eleven congregations.
- Traveled to speak to various congregations across eastern NC.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge Number 304, Deep Run, NC

Sudan Shriner, New Bern, NC

ECU Pirate Club, Greenville, NC

The Boy Scouts of America, Kinston, NC

Relay for Life, Kinston, NC

CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Notary Public, Lenoir County, North Carolina

Commission Expires: 28 March 2022