MATTHEW W. WALLACE

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:
LAW STUDENT AT-LARGE ON THE ABA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Introduction:

My name is Matthew Wallace and I am a 2L at the Syracuse University College of Law in Syracuse, New York. It is a privilege to submit my name as a candidate for Law Student At-Large on the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors. I appreciate the opportunity to introduce myself and my platform to you today.

By way of background, I was born and raised just outside of San Francisco, California, and completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. During my time at the University of Washington, I enrolled in the Army Reserve Officer’s Training Corps and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army upon my graduation in June, 2016. In-between my undergraduate career and law school, I worked as part of a joint-force Operations and International Law team at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Since starting at the Syracuse University College of Law in August, 2016, I have been very active in both our Student Bar Association and the American Bar Association. As a 1L, I served as the 1L Class Vice President. My goal that year was to bring together my fellow classmates from all different backgrounds and ease the transition into our law school journey. The following summer, I was fortunate enough to obtain an internship with the JetBlue Airways Legal Department. This position was perfectly in line with my lifelong passion for the aerospace industry. Soon after, I joined the ABA Air & Space Forum and have remained active within the forum through events like the annual conference in Montreal, Canada, and update calls throughout the year.

Platform:

My platform is three-fold. First, I’ll continue the work of G. Meredith Parnell, the current Law Student At-Large on the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors, and Thomas Kim, the Chair of the Law Student Division. Meredith and Thomas have made great strides this past year in improving law student participation in the ABA, communication between the Board of Governors and the Law Student Division, and advocacy of behalf of all law students with particular emphasis on those who remain undocumented yet seek to take a bar exam.

Second, I want to guide the ABA towards once-again advocating for the preservation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. As members of the legal profession, we know that an extreme disparity exists between those who need legal aid and the services that are available
to them. Unfortunately, a legal education is expensive and many of my fellow students take on student loans to cover the cost. These loans can lead to high monthly payments as soon as school is complete which often times pushes new attorneys away from public service and towards higher-paying positions in the private sector.

Now, more than ever, we need programs like Public Service Loan Forgiveness because they encourage new attorneys to pursue careers in public service. Even if one does not have student loans or started school before the Program began, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program benefits all of us. This Program is at the forefront of helping to close the widening gap of needed legal services; but as the most recent tax bill debate showed us, nothing is ever off the negotiating table. As legislation like the PROSPER Act, which eliminates the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, continues to re-appear in Congress, the ABA needs to renew its commitment to advocate on behalf of all law students, like it did several years ago, to preserve this valuable and effective program.

Finally, I want to start a campaign for the American Bar Association to reach out to communities that could put forward law students and attorneys dedicated to public service. One such community is that of veterans returning from our decade-long conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2001, 2.7 million Americans have deployed to these conflict zones. Having worked with many of these individuals firsthand, I know their passionate commitment both to this country and to the success of every individual they stand beside each day. Several of my classmates are veterans and I know that a targeted recruitment campaign could result in a new generation of attorneys ready to serve the people of the United States. Although, this is just one of the many communities that the American Bar Association could reach out to as our profession continues to adapt and change within today’s legal environment.

**Conclusion:**

The American Bar Association and its 410,000 members have the power to effect change across this country on a daily basis. Law students represent the future of this organization and the profession as a whole. As the Law Student At-Large on the ABA’s Board of Governors, I will work tirelessly to ensure that today’s law students are prepared for the world that lies ahead. You can be sure that as your Law Student At-Large, I will spend each day working towards these goals and living out the ABA’s goal of “defending liberty and pursuing justice.”

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce both myself and my platform. I would be honored to have your vote. I welcome any questions or comments you may have using the above email and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.
MATTHEW W. WALLACE

Questions/Comments? mwwallac@syr.edu

EDUCATION

Syracuse University College of Law | SYRACUSE, NY
Juris Doctor Candidate
May 2019

Honors: Moot Court Honor Society | Associate Member
Semi-Finalist | Buffalo Niagara Trial Team
Spring 2018 Competitor | National Trial Competition Team
Journal on Terrorism and Security Analysis | Associate Editor

Activities: Student Bar Association | Vice-President, Senator
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity | Chapter Justice (President)

Syracuse University - Maxwell School of Citizenship | SYRACUSE, NY
Masters of Public Administration Candidate
May 2019

University of Washington | SEATTLE, WA
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Law, Societies & Justice
June 2016

WORK EXPERIENCE

JetBlue Airways | SUMMER ASSOCIATE
May 2017 – August 2017 | New York, NY

• Collaborated with fifteen in-house attorneys and outside counsel on company matters.
• Reviewed 298 business partner contracts to ensure Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance.
• Drafted contract termination correspondence and assisted in ongoing discovery requests.
• Aided the marketing team with drafts of sponsorship, sweepstakes, and giveaway conditions.
• Conducted extensive research and prepared memoranda on various contractual and tort issues.

Department of Defense | LEGAL INTERN
May 2016 – August 2016 | Washington, DC

• Supported military and civilian lawyers within the Operations/International Law Directorate.
• Updated expired Status of Forces Agreements in collaboration with allied military officers.
• Analyzed proposed policies on drone control, transgender soldiers, and the South China Sea.
• Tracked and reported on the criminal cases of military personnel in foreign jurisdictions.

Student Legal Services | LEGAL ASSISTANT
April 2014 – May 2016 | Seattle, WA

• Scheduled hundreds of legal consultation appointments annually in varied fields of law.
• Oversaw the administration, operation, and billing of a thirty to fifty client legal office.
• Drafted a yearly budget in excess of $200,000 in collaboration with university supervisors.

George, Schofield & McCormick | LEGAL INTERN
May 2013 – August 2013 | Concord, CA

• Prepared client files for meetings, depositions, and arbitration/mediation appointments.
• Acted as a process server and filed legal documents with the Contra Costa County clerk.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

United States Army Reserve | FIRST LIEUTENANT
Commissioned: 12 May 2016

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

American Mock Trial Association | ALL-REGION ATTORNEY
April 2014 | Seattle, WA
Performed in the top 2% of participants regionally in the 2014 AMTA Tournament of Champions.

Boy Scouts of America | EAGLE SCOUT
April 2010 | Danville, CA
Achieved the highest rank in the organization with three additional Palms.