

EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas School of Law | Minneapolis, MN Expected May 2020

Candidate for Juris Doctor

- Dean's Scholarship Recipient
- Board of Advocates: Trial Advocacy | Social Committee | Finance Committee | Law Choir | LexisNexis Certification | Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity: Executive Board Member | St. Thomas Ambassador | Mentor Externship Peer Mentor

University of St. Thomas | St. Paul, MN May 2016

Bachelor of Arts, with a double major in Political Science and Justice and Peace

- Dean's List (Spring 2014 and Spring 2016)
- National Residence Hall Honorary Tommie Paw Print Award
- Club Volleyball | Residence Hall Association | Hall Council | UST Linkages Mentor Program

EXPERIENCE

Tenth District Public Defender's Office | Stillwater, MN January 2019 to Present

Certified Student Attorney through the Misdemeanor Defense Externship

- Gained a variety of litigation experience, including interviewing clients, negotiating cases, and representing clients in the courtroom

University of St. Thomas School of Law | Minneapolis, MN May 2018 to Present

Research Assistant with the Mentor Externship Program

- Assisted design of a new course management system, create mentor profile updates and mentor research
- Collaborate with mentor program team to develop resource materials and curriculum

League of Minnesota Cities | St. Paul, MN June 2018 to July 2018

General Counsel Extern through the Public Interest Externship

- Conducted extensive research and completed writing assignments to aid the General Counsel in providing quality defense services to its member cities
- Assisted with the design of the first Code of Conduct and Ethical Responsibilities training for LMC litigators
- Communicated with policymakers through various policy and outreach meetings

University of St. Thomas School of Law | Minneapolis, MN May 2018 to July 2018

Research Assistant to Professor Gregory Sisk

- Conducted meticulous faculty citation research utilizing Westlaw for the "2018 Law Faculties Scholarly Impact Study"

Vanilla Bean Restaurant | Two Harbors, MN June 2009 to August 2017

Manager on Duty (May 2016-August 2017); Seasonal Server (June 2009-May 2016)

- Trained new employees in the proper procedures and policies of the restaurant
- Solved any customer service issues and balanced daily finances

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Minnesota Justice Foundation: Mock Trial Judge (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019) | Street Law (Spring 2018) | LegalCorps (September 2017)
- Upper Midwest Association for Intercultural Education (January 2015; 2016)
- Soliya Connect Program (Spring 2014)
- Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (January 2014)

January 2019

I am a second-year student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota and I am writing to express my interest in the American Bar Association's Law Student Division position of Delegate of Programming.

Apart from my legal interests, I've always endeavored to be a part of a community. I believe it adds more vibrancy to your everyday life. Being a part of a community means you are bigger than yourself, it offers knowledge, connections, inspiration, support, and many other resources.

Undergrad can be a strenuous time of uncertainty, doubt, and new experiences. I took the uncertainty of being in a new environment and became a member of the Residence Hall Association that planned campus-wide events for around 6,000 students. Being awarded the National Residence Hall Honorary Tommie Paw Print Award in recognition of my engagement on campus paled in comparison to being able to find a sense of community and support with other like-minded friends.

After graduation, I returned to my hometown after years away and felt disconnected to the community. I worked long hours to earn extra money for law school and felt I had little time to reestablish the deep connection I had before I left. Yet, connection to the community is something that is a core value of mine, and I knew I had to make a change. One activity I enjoy is staying physically active, and I wanted to share that with others who strove to do the same. I developed a town-wide "fitness challenge" that encouraged participants to exercise and meet their goals with an added incentive of claiming the pot of money that each person had contributed to participate. To my delight, participation in the challenge spread rapidly throughout the community primarily through word of mouth, and I was able to meet new people, connect with old friends, and promote a healthy lifestyle that continues to make a positive impact on the city. I also coordinated various activities at work, like a company-wide Secret Santa, to enhance morale and strengthen the sense of fellowship.

It was hard to leave the community I had re-established, but I was eager to begin law school. As we all know, it is a particularly daunting task, but I knew to stay grounded and level-headed I needed to stay involved in planning events for my peers. I was able to find those opportunities through my current participation as a part of the Social Committee and have contributed to the planning of some of our biggest events including our annual Flag Football competition, Christmas party, and Barrister's Ball.

Outside of the law school's Social Committee, I organized the school's participation in the Hennepin County Bar Association's Summer Softball league. We were the first and only law school of the three in the state to participate. It was a great way to casually meet other attorneys that played on their firm's team. But most importantly, it was a way to stay connected with peers that might otherwise not see each other outside of class. While we may not have been the best team, spending warm summer nights on the field are some of my favorite memories from our short Minnesota summer.

Another community that I have had the privilege of joining has been the nationally recognized legal fraternity, Delta Theta Phi. During my first year of law school, I was offered a support system of current members and alumni to help guide me through classes and the job search. I wanted to give back and am the current Social Chair on the Executive Board. This year, I have aimed to plan at least two events per month throughout the school year, including meeting with judges and having firm recruiters talk to our chapter about the job application process. I am currently in the process of planning a school-wide blood drive with the Red Cross to give back to the community while students earn volunteer hours. My goal has been to provide the same support to members that I received my first year.

Additionally, as opportunities to broaden my involvement beyond my current activities and follow the lead of attorneys staying involved after law school, I regularly attend the local bar association events, the Hennepin County Bar Association: New Lawyer's Section, as well as the Minnesota Women Lawyer's meetings.

Through my experiences, I discovered creating a strong sense of community and connecting with others does not have to be hard or complex, it can be as simple as organizing a run through town. I bring this mindset and determination to create a strong community connection to this position with the ABA. I don't find "party planning" to be merely a chore but a creative outlet to do something other than the routine tasks law school requires. I continue to be left with a sense of great personal fulfillment from watching others enjoy the events I plan, particularly when it brings together people that may not have spent time with each other, otherwise. My goal as the Delegate of Programming would be to offer law students across the country opportunities to excel in their professional goals, support their mental health, and to simply experience the joy of bringing students together.

Whether I receive the honor of being elected to this position or not, I will continue to enjoy planning events. I not only look forward to a new challenge, but a new community, a subset filled with other bright young law students who are a part of a larger group of established hard-working attorneys. I believe my background illustrates my event planning abilities and feel that these successful experiences make me a good candidate for the Delegate of Programming for the ABA.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to any-and-all Law Student Division events planned by any of the qualified applicants for this upcoming year.