

Taylor Bennington

Candidacy Statement and Resume

Colleagues,

The American Bar Association is the most influential legal organization in the United States, and likely the world. As law students we have the unique opportunity to be involved in this great enterprise by participation in the ABA's Law Student Division. The voice of law students matters, and as the next generation of leaders in the profession it is important we continue to contribute to the greater conversation about policy, regulation, and administration both in our law schools and in the Association. I believe we can continue to maximize our influence if we prioritize inclusion, emphasize investment, and aim to inspire.

The strength of our organization is only as strong as the diversity of those in our collective voice. We must continue to *prioritize inclusion*. The number one priority of the Law Student Division should be to advocate for policy that continues to remove barriers and promote access to legal education for all students who desire to pursue the profession. No matter a student's race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation they should feel welcomed in law school and in the Association. It is the responsibility of the leadership of the Law Student Division to own this creed and be its chief advocate. If elected you can count on my team and I to not just use the word inclusion as a catch phrase in an election, but a value we live out in our day to day leadership.

The Law Student Division of the ABA represents law students from coast to coast, and from schools both large and small. As an organization we ought to *emphasize investment*. Students from America's most prominent legal institutions to regional law schools like my own should know that their leaders in the Law Student Division are for them and are their chief advocates. As leaders of the organization we need to be investing our time, talent, and treasure into making connection with schools across the nation. My team and I will regularly make contact with members of the Assembly to seek your input on issues facing law students and the profession. Our focus will be taking the time to invest in you and our collective voice.

The goal of any great leader or organization should be that to inspire change. I believe that the Law Student Division of the ABA is uniquely positioned to *aim to inspire* not only this generation of law students, but the students who will follow in our footsteps. Right now, in this moment, we have the opportunity in the face of a politically divided nation, to set ourselves and our profession apart by advocating for a more accepting, inclusive, and united organization.

Over the last three years I have had the chance to take a stand for students at The University of Akron by being elected to two terms as student body president, and most recently by being appointed by the Governor of Ohio to represent my peers on our Board of Trustees. It would be my sincere honor to take my experience in leadership to the Law Student Division Council, and share this vision of inclusion, investment, and inspiration with law students from across the country.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

-Taylor

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Education

The University of Akron School of Law
Juris Doctor Candidate

Akron, OH
Expected Dec 2021

- Student Trustee, The University of Akron Board of Trustees
- Member, Presidential Selection Committee
- Member, National Alumni Executive Board
- Deans List, Fall 2019

The University of Akron
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Akron, OH
May 2019

- Student Body President
- Faculty Senator
- University Council Executive Committee Member
- University Conduct and Hearing Board

Experience

The University of Akron
Student Trustee, Board of Trustees

Akron, OH
2019-Present

Appointed by the Governor of Ohio on July 2, 2019 to serve as one of two student representatives on The University of Akron Board of Trustees. The Board is the governing body for The University of Akron and is responsible for selecting and appointing the president; setting the operating budget; approving personnel appointments; granting all degrees awarded by the University, including honorary degrees; establishing tuition and fee rates; approving contracts; and approving all rules, regulations, curriculum changes, new programs and degrees at the University.

The University of Akron
Student Body President

Akron, OH
2017-2019

Represented the interests of 20,000 undergraduate students for two terms to the staff, faculty and administration. Created and executed the Undergraduate Student Government Operating Budget (\$620,000+). Acted as chief executive of an organization of 50+ paid individuals. Participated in various public speaking engagements. Presided over cabinet meetings and over Directional Leadership Team meetings. Traveled to represent the university at various functions across the nation, and served on many university boards and committees.

Highland Local Schools
Debate Coach

Medina, OH
2016-2019

Managed a team of 60+ students. Coordinated development efforts with local community partners to raise support for team budget. Coached 20+ students weekly. Assisted in the creation of the team budget. Managed the annual debate tournament. Assisted in the facilitation of coach staff meetings. Represented the team at various tournaments, events, and meetings across Ohio and the nation.

Undergraduate Student Government
Chief of Staff

Akron, OH
2016-2017

Direct oversight of the executive branch cabinet and staff. Assisted in the execution of budget (\$620,000+). Acted as the chairman of the annual Ohio Student Government Summit (150+ attendees) and chairman of the organizational outreach team. Completed annual event planning, strategic operations, organizational leadership, other duties as assigned by the president.