

# **New York State YMCA Youth & Government 2018 - 2019 OFFICER NOMINATION**

I declare my candidacy for the position of:

**Chief Justice**

**Name: Jessica Jacobs**

**Year in school: 11      Number of years in Y&G: 3**

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

My first year in the Youth and Government program I was able to truly expand my love for law, politics, and learn immensely from my peers. At my first conference I was assigned Case B, where I argued against a team of very skilled attorneys and successfully won my case. At my first conference I was elected Firm Leader by my peers and experienced my first taste of leadership through Youth and Government also winning Best Firm/Firm Head. The following year, as a sophomore, I became a justice and was able to support my peers to grow in their public speaking abilities and understanding of their case. Last year I was also selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) as a delegate from New York and was honored with the opportunity to spend a week in the Blue Ridge Mountains among some of the most intelligent young minds our nation has to offer. In addition to Youth and Government, I am also a member of the student council, campus ministry board, the captain of my school's Varsity Cross Country team.



**Describe a situation in which you were a member of a group engaged in discussion in order to reach a decision. What steps did you take to ensure the quality and fairness of the outcome?"**

This year, when myself and the other justices from our district were meeting to discuss which of our attorneys should be considered for possible justice positions we found ourselves to be very divided in our opinions. To ensure the fairness and quality of the outcome, I made sure that each candidate was being properly represented and that every unique attribute that person could bring to our program was being highlighted. In the end, our conversation reached a conclusion that was ultimately very positive for everyone.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is the selfless mentorship which a leader imparts to others. As Chief Justice I will be able to advocate for each of the justices and attorneys across New York State so that next years Albany Conference is full of successes and learning opportunities. Servant leadership is demonstrated through equity, compassion and patience; all attributes which the Youth and Government program has helped me to foster and develop overtime. As Chief Justice I will make sure to understand and model these characteristics of a servant leader for the growth and benefit the Judicial program.