

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

I declare my candidacy for the position of:

**Public Defender**

**Name: Jonathan Hendry**

Year in school: 11

Number of years in Y&G: 3



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

From the very start of joining Youth and Government I knew this club would change my life. During my freshman year in the program I was honored to be elected firm leader where I was later able to win my case in front of a panel of terrifying justices. The following year I received the honor of being a Justice where I was able to truly see the aspects of being a servant leader. Finally, this year I was selected to be a Justice for Con Law One at Greenkill where I will have the chance to preside over the AG/PD case. Other than Youth and Government, I've had the honor of being a part of the Moot court team which competed in the Suffolk County Championships and a witness on the successful William Floyd Mock Trial team. I am also a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, due to my love and devotion to music. These programs have taught me the value of leadership and what it means to be a servant leader.

**How has the time you've spent in youth and government affected your life?**

My sophomore year as a justice I was able, for the first time, to immerse myself into the true values of servant leadership. Sitting down with struggling attorneys at Discovery gave me insight on truly what it means to be a servant leader. I was not only able to help the attorneys; I was able to see their growth as they later presented in the courtroom I presided over. This was the most humbling, memorable, and influential experience I have had in my YAG career and has completely changed my mindset in the real world. It comes down to it that YAG has taught me the most important value in life: humility.

**What inspired you to take on a leadership position in the judicial branch?**

My devotion and love for the Youth and Government program is my number one incentive for taking on a leadership position. Having a leadership position will undoubtedly allow me to enable others to find their voice, just as I did. Also, the thought of being able to argue cases in front of the Justices one last time brings back that fiery passion I had while being a freshman where for the first time, I was able to speak my mind. In the past, the Public Defender has set the tone for the conference by presenting a passionate argument. I would make it my job to set such a tone to inspire the incoming freshmen and give them that final boost before they present, with confidence.

**Explain how you would lead the judicial branch using servant leadership if elected to office:**

Servant leadership means being able to carry both the mindset and mannerisms of a leader. In order to be a servant leader, one must understand and project the values of being selfless and compassionate to help others. As a justice, I came to this understanding that Albany is not there for the leaders. Albany is for the attorneys to be able to learn and grow as speakers. I would make it my job to inspire these attorneys and work in unison with the Justices to ensure success just as I've done for this year and my sophomore year.