

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

I declare my candidacy for the position of:

## **Public Defender**

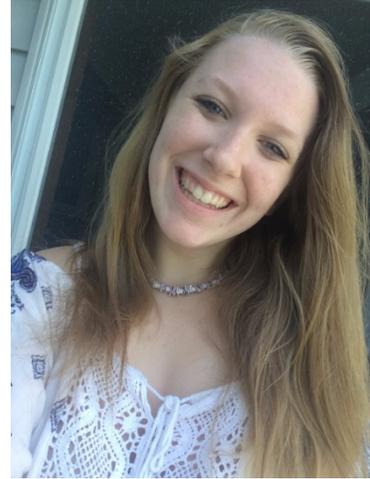
**Name:** Reagan O'Donnell

**Year in school:** 11

**Number of years in YAG:** 2

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

Winning judicial attorney, President of Student Council, and member of multiple teams/clubs.



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

When your partner is depending on you to help them, it gives you a strong sense of responsibility and that means that I have to be organized and know how to present the argument in the most efficient way possible. Youth and Government, as cliché as it sounds, has demonstrated to me the importance of leadership. As an experienced attorney, younger members of my district look up to me. I have learned how to juggle my responsibility, as well as helping others towards success. This year, especially, has made me realize how much younger attorneys look up to me and take cues from me.

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

Honestly, I want a challenge and P.D. will offer me the opportunity to see how far along my debate and attorney skills have come since my first year. Also, the leadership that I've had in other clubs and organizations have shown me the impact that leaders can have upon those they are leading. It's the leader's job to bring their experience and vision and to inspire and cultivate each individual's talents and potential.

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

I would make sure that all of the younger members of the program feel comfortable and confident with what they are presenting, as well as feeling as prepared as possible for the conference. I think it's very important that everyone has a good experience, no matter the outcome of their case. Especially for first-years, I would ensure their heads are really in the game and give them whatever tips I could pass on, because everyone has the potential to win and be an incredible attorney.