

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Attorney-General

Neha Yousuf

Years in Youth and Government: 2

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I joined Youth and Government as a freshman terrified at the thought of public speaking. I was looking for something different, something that would push me to overcome my fears. However, this club did so much more than that. It built this community of support and encouragement. A community that urged me to be ambitious, to speak up, and to make so many friends who inspired me to better myself. From that terrified girl who presented with her words stuttering, I became a proud attorney attending the Albany conference to present my argument for Case A. Attending Albany for the first time was mind-blowing. Everything was so organized and I got to meet hundreds of people from all around the state. There, I was given the honor of being awarded Best Brief after hours of hard work. It was perhaps the start of my achievements that this program welded me to strive for. The following two years serving as a Justice further expanded my visions and ideas for the future of this program. As a Justice in last year's Albany conference, I was awarded the CONA Alternate position. I am also a 2-year Mock Trial team member working to make arguments and witness roles with my team for real-world legal cases that are presented in actual courtrooms. Additionally, I am also a 2-year member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and of the Business Honor Society, where I work with others to organize and present entrepreneurial and community events. I have also been elected as a Class Council member by my peers to represent them in school events and decision making. With the experience I gained from these years, I'm determined to carry on the responsibilities as your Attorney General next year.



Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? The Attorney General is a symbol of our government's voice and security of their legal judgement. They are a powerful public figure, grounded in their belief of the Constitution and of defending the government's will in the courtroom. Watching so many of our attorneys present faithfully to this position, I came to venerate and admire that symbol. I have grown a voice that put the needs of defending people's rights before my own, a voice that I want to teach to other growing and aspiring attorneys. I am at a loss for words with how much this program has been responsible for my self-growth. As a freshman, I participated in my first debates with my arms trembling, stomach turning, and my heart beating outside of my chest. As terrifying as that was, this program made me experience something amazing. It got all kinds of attorneys- from outspoken ones to ones terrified just like me- to come together and urge me to persevere with my arguments. That was the moment I realized that this was more than just a club- this was a community of action and progression. I aim to teach attorneys in this amazing community how to overcome the struggles that I initially struggled with when trying to present a strong argument. I will show attorneys at the Albany conference how to be brave and speak strongly even when Justices will ask their intimidating questions. To me, the A.G. position, being the awe-inspiring position it is, is an opportunity to inspire hundreds at the Albany conference to become powerful attorneys. It is also an opportunity to show young minds the importance of defending our Government and delivering justice in the courtroom.

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

Servant leadership means to be empathic, responsible, and motivated for the sake of those looking towards your guidance. I am always eager to help attorneys and justices with any critiques or advice they may need on their presentations. I strongly value showing empathy to those who may be struggling or stressed during their work in the Judicial branch and will move to ensure they come back from this year's Albany conference having learned and experienced something new. I will be responsible for heavily preparing and presenting the fruits of my hard work at the Albany conference, refusing to let down those taking the time to see and learn from my performance. Finally, I am sure to always show an encouraging and driven face to my peers in order to motivate them as well. It is in all these qualities that a servant leader must readily show that they will put your needs over their own, a kind of leader that this program welded me to become.