

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Public Defender

Louis Parrinello

Years in Youth and Government: 3

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

I have had the opportunity to experience this program for 3 years as an attorney. My first year in Youth and Government was an awakening for me as I not only discovered my voice, but my love for debate as well. On a Case A, I honed in on my passion for public speaking and the justice system by analyzing the cross cases and formulating my voice in the process. After countless hours of practicing and refining my argument, it was time for state conference. Despite my discomfort, I focused on the task at hand instead of my fear of failing. I overcame my loss and decided to learn from this experience. Once I took in everything that was going on around me, it was clear what this program was really about: passion and friendship. Of course, like every Sunday ceremony there were tears and I left with a new love for the program. The next year, I was on case C and I just knew I had to come back! Just as I expected, I enjoyed it even more than before. As for this year, I've used the skills I've developed over my 3 years in this program to formulate my best argument to date. Outside of Youth and Government, I bowl on both the state and national level with teams that have strengthened my communication skills as well as teaching me how to be a part of something much larger than myself. I am eager to apply these skills no matter where I go and Youth and Government is no exception. I now understand more than ever before, this is the future and I'm glad to be a part of it.

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?

I remember my first year at state conference and how blown away I was by the AG/PD presentation. Growing up with a fear of speaking, I envied the way these two powerful attorneys presented themselves to an entire ballroom of the state's future politicians. As the program taught me to find and love my voice, I strive to inspire others just as I was inspired as a freshman. The last thing I want is for any delegate or attorney to turn away from this program because they cannot find their voice, because we are all here to make sure that everyone is respectfully heard in a caring environment. In order to pursue this goal, I will make it my duty to lead this branch by example and make myself readily available to anyone in need of assistance with their brief or argument. Ultimately, I want this branch to be the best it's ever been, and my only wish is to leave knowing I've inspired people like myself to find their love for oral debate.

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

Servant leadership is sacrificing your own needs to help those around you. It is not something that comes easily to anyone however, servant leadership will be my top priority as your Public Defender. As Public Defender, I will embrace servant leadership by opening my contact to any attorneys who need encouragement, feedback, or style tips on their argument. No matter where or when you have a question, I will be there to answer it to the best of my ability. I will make myself available through email, text messages, and even social media platforms such as Instagram to answer these questions. My goal for this position is to protect the interest of the people regardless of their relation to the courtroom and I will ensure you can present to the best of your ability.

