

# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

## Chief Justice

### Jack Kelly

Years in Youth and Government: 2

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

I joined Youth and Government in my sophomore year, but even prior to then I was heavily involved in my student senate and debate club. Through hard work and dedication, I have had the honor of serving as the Vice President of my student senate as a junior, a position that presides over more than 4,000 students and is most often held by a senior. In addition, I have been lucky enough to be a state semifinalist as well as a nationally ranked debater for the past two years. While in my opinion, the judicial program we all work with is a much more refined academic competition, my experience in speech and debate has allowed me to develop strong speaking skills and has allowed me to learn how to craft intelligent arguments quickly and with little preparation. I hope to bring these skills with me if elected so I can help better prepare attorneys and justices for state conference. As co-chair of my district's judicial program, I have experience mentoring attorneys as well as assisting my fellow justices. In my first year in Youth and Government, I was named a delegate to the Conference on National Affairs, an opportunity which I am extremely grateful for. This year, I have also been named one of the two delegates to YMCA National Advocacy Days, a four-day program in which I advocate on Capitol Hill for the Y's advocacy goals alongside executives from our state alliance. I believe that both of these honors will allow me to have a broader understanding of our legislative and lobbying programs and make me a better and more collaborative leader with the other presiding officers.

**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 am seeking office because I love YAG and want to be more involved. As I have progressed throughout my YAG career I have found a community of passionate people who I want to help build up and support. As Co-chair of my district's Judicial program and as Co-President of my debate team, I have experience mentoring people in both academic and judicial competitions. While I have loved these experiences, I also hope to use my position as chief justice to help mentor justices and develop their skills to think critically, analyze the law, and mentor their attorneys. In addition, I can offer to the judicial program a platform of communication, dedication, and education.

The current problem we face is one of isolation. We as justices are supposed to be a team, and yet we only get the opportunity to work with each other on one occasion before we arrive in Albany. I hope to help fix this problem through a few initiatives such as judicial contact sheets, educational materials like videos and Quizlet sets, and by giving justices the ability to read briefs before hearing cases. I feel that implementing these ideas will allow both attorneys and justices to be more prepared and have a better overall experience at state conference.

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

Servant leadership as a concept is the idea that our leaders are elected to work for those who appointed them, not the other way around. I am a passionate advocate for this style of leadership and have worked to incorporate it into all the positions I've held over the course of my professional career. If elected, I will make it my top priority to make the judicial program a positive and rewarding experience for all those involved. The best way I know how to serve others is by enacting programs and projects such as the ones I outlined above to make everyone's experience easier and more focused on the real purpose of the judicial program. I have learned that the best leaders serve others by making themselves available to help with any and everything they can. What I can assure each and every one of you is that voting for me guarantees a constant source of optimism, support, and guidance.

