

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Chief Justice

Megan Richardson

Years in Youth and Government: 3

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: As a freshman in high school, I was hesitant about joining a program that I thought was so much larger than myself. I was shy, quiet, and completely unaware of the effect that this program would have on my life. My freshman year, I found my voice and my passion as a Case A attorney. I used that passion to win my Case C as a sophomore. This year, I have been appointed as a justice, where I have learned the importance of working with others in order to reach an end goal. Additionally, I have served my district as their judicial secretary for the past two years. This role has taught me both organization and responsibility. Lastly, as a member of the Conference Life Committee for the 2020 State Conference, I have learned to put the best interests of others before my own. The skills that I have obtained through this program have propelled me farther than I could have ever imagined. Over the summer, through my attendance at a Yale University summit, I learned what it meant to be a true leader by guiding my peers through activities and collaborating well in large groups. Additionally, by taking part in National Honor Society, I have discovered the power of service. As a member of the class council, I have unlocked the key to leadership through presiding over my peers. As a musician in the Pit Orchestra, I have learned how to listen and take instruction. As your Chief Justice, I will use these skills to lead this branch to new heights.



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 motivated to run for Chief Justice to help bring this branch to its fullest potential. The passion and dedication I see among the attorneys and justices within this program continuously inspires me to be the best version of myself that I could possibly be. As chief, it is my hope to help each of you reach your goals, and to use technology to do so. My goal is to increase inter-district communication and cooperation prior to the State Conference. As a member of the CLC, I have learned how to use Zoom: an online platform designed for large group discussions. I would like to use this platform to orchestrate bi-monthly calls in which justices and attorneys from around the state can work together on case knowledge, understanding cross cases, formulating an argument, and answering questions. Such communication will make it easier for attorneys and justices alike to adjust to the atmosphere of State Conference. In addition, I would like to add new, updated resources to the Youth & Government website: including argument templates, tips on oral arguments, and FAQ's to help attorneys prepare throughout the year. With steady, year-long communication between our justices and attorneys, our branch will run smoothly and efficiently.

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

To me, servant leadership is taking the appropriate actions to ensure the betterment of every individual within a group. It is achieved through elevating the needs of others above your own. Servant leadership is far from easy; it requires time, sacrifice, and dedication. A servant leader works selflessly to aid those who are counting on them, and as your chief justice, I will work to put your needs above my own. I hope to do this by being available to you whenever you may have a question or a concern. Such availability will be provided through the use of the Remind app, where you can ask questions and receive direct and immediate responses. This year, the PO's have done an amazing job of increasing communication between themselves and delegates through their Instagram accounts. It is my hope to utilize this platform as a tool to increase communication with attorneys, and help with argument writing. Lastly, my goal is to work with the Principle Justices of each district so that I may address the individual needs of each district. By applying servant leadership, I feel that we can strengthen and unify our branch on a new level.