



**A Message from the President**  
**Tuesday, April 1, 2014**

As required by the Student Bar Association By-Laws, Article VII, Section 1(c)(i), what follows is a report to the student body on the state of Chicago-Kent's Student Bar Association from SBA President, Sasha Kakabadse:

Dear Students:

It has been a busy year for the SBA, continuing the positive trajectory of last year's work and further improving life at Chicago-Kent. Although I am almost at the end of my term as President, I want to share with you what your SBA has been up to and what we hope to accomplish through the end of the term, May 12.

As you know, you are all members of the SBA, by virtue of paying Student Activity Fees, and our mission is to act as your voice to affect positive change at Chicago-Kent. And, while I think we have been successful in improving some areas that we set out to fix at the beginning of the year, there is still work to be done and we're always looking for feedback. So, in brief, let me lay out what I consider to be the accomplishments to date and what we plan to do with our limited time:

Accomplishments:

- Worked with the Dean and the Admission's Office on prospective student marketing, beginning a SBA focus on Chicago-Kent's marketing.
  - Created an *ad hoc* Marketing Committee to further brainstorm areas where Chicago-Kent can improve its image and suggest ways to better market the strength and value of the law school to the larger legal community.
- Worked with the Alumni Office on 125 Block Party, where student organizations hosted booths.
- Worked with Financial Affairs to improve student organization accounting and reimbursement process, helping to speed up how quickly students are reimbursed.
- Worked with the Administration to collect student feedback on the new Praxis Certificate, which was passed by the faculty and will begin next year.
- Increased student commitment to the Lawyers Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) by \$15/semester per student.
  - Worked with the Administration to evolve the program to meet the current needs of applicants, ensuring the longevity and fairness of the program.

- Raised the student activity fee by \$10/semester (which is the first raise since 2008) to ensure the SBA runs on a balanced budget, without cutting the programming available to students, or substantially increasing costs.
- Increased SBA's participation in and involvement with the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.
- Continued approval of new student organizations, including the first Chicago student Federal Bar Association, the Forum for Law and Internet, the Health Law Society, and the Republican National Bar Association.
- We also continue to host successful school events, including:
  - Two 5under5 Networking events;
  - The Faculty/Student Social;
  - Two Blood Drives, both of which were the most successful in Chicago-Kent history; and
  - Three all-school socials, and have planned two that are forthcoming (the Spring Conviser Bash and Barristers Ball).

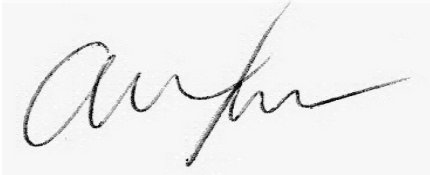
#### Remaining Plans:

- Continue to improve Chicago-Kent's marketing.
  - Leveraging SBA's nationally-recognized social media presence.
- Further improve accounting processes so student organizations always know what their balance is, with consistent numbers coming from both the SBA and the Student Accounting Office.
- Working on student spaces:
  - In addition to the new student lounge and student activity space, working with the administration on plans for a workout space, including small locker rooms and showers; and
  - Ensuring equitable distribution of student organization space and creating lockers for more student organization storage.
- Will again survey student body to determine what the SBA is doing well and what we should focus on in the future.
- Increasing transparency and accountability:
  - Launched the new SBA website (<http://studentorgs.kentlaw.iit.edu/sba/>).
  - Updating by-laws to memorialize steps that the SBA must take to remain as transparent as possible.

Of course, I can neither take credit for the good work we've accomplished to date, nor the goals that we achieve before the year is over, as that goes to the SBA at large. You will almost never see it, but your SBA tirelessly works for the benefit of the student body and I would be remiss to not take a single moment to thank the SBA for their work: you all deserve more credit than you get; without you I couldn't do my job, so I thank you (on behalf of the whole student body) for the countless hours you put in.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if there is ever anything you need or an idea that you want the SBA to pursue. After all, we're here to represent you, as your concerns are ours to champion. It has been the greatest honor of my law school experience to serve as your President and I hope, in what time remains, that we can accomplish even more together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Alexander "Sasha" Kakabadse  
President, Student Bar Association  
Chicago-Kent College of Law  
J.D. Candidate, 2014  
akakabad@kentlaw.iit.edu

[SBA Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)