

SBA PRESIDENT CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Please review all candidate statements prior to voting. Please vote for only 1 candidate for president.

*****NOTE*** Students are not required to vote for an entire ticket. Students may “split” their vote.**

Candidates: Name (Ticket Name-if applicable)

- 1.) Michael Elliot
- 2.) Andrew Heap (Jobs and Technology)
- 3.) Nicholas Mowbray (Mowbray/Allen)

Michael Elliott

I would like to be your SBA President. For the last two years I have been a member of SBA. Though these last two years have been extremely busy, I have worked hard to adequately represent student interests, and to make myself available to all students. I believe that I am friendly, personable, and easy to approach. If elected, I will be sure to facilitate SBA meetings that are responsive to student concerns, and I will help ensure that the allocation of funding for student organizations is done in a fair and efficient way.

Andrew Heap (Jobs and Technology)

My take on student government is very simple. The SBA has two primary functions 1) make your life as a student at Chicago-Kent a little easier and 2) provide opportunities to engage the legal community beyond the classroom. As a result, the core and focus of my platform is equally simple: *Jobs, Technology and Outreach*.

Jobs:

The SBA clearly isn't going to get a job for you, but it absolutely should be doing everything it can to make the job search easier. The SBA should be making it simpler for you to connect with Kent Alumni and local area practitioners. It should be acting as your advocate to the career services office – making sure that they know what your employment concerns and needs are. It should be helping to open the lines of communication between students (sometimes your best job contact is the guy sitting on the opposite side of the room in class).

There are so many easy ways that the SBA can help facilitate this process. More SBA sponsored speaker panels should be held, more events generally dedicated to networking should be provided, socials should be opened up to Kent Alumni, the summer job database needs to be publicized/participated in more and, maybe most importantly, constructive feedback from the student body needs to be gathered and acted upon.

Technology:

It's time to take the technological shortcomings of our school seriously. I know that this is a common theme among SBA candidate statements, but, up to this point, very few have truly attacked this problem the way it needs to be. Wireless is a headache, expensive courtroom technology goes unused because

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nobody knows how to use it, compatibility problems are rampant, and on and on...

I want to form a committee with backgrounds in technology specifically dedicated to understanding the technical reasons for the problems we've been having, generating possible solutions, and, if nothing else, harassing those who need to be harassed to effect the changes that are so desired by the student body. I also want to improve the SBA's relationship with technology by improving the website and trying to limit kind and quantity of messages that are sent out to the entire student body through the list-serve.

Outreach:

Finally, I want to make community outreach more of a priority of the SBA in the coming academic year. I want to provide opportunities to and encourage participation in community service oriented school outreach. Whether the projects we undertake are directly law related or not, I see this as a chance not only to aid the surrounding community but also to raise the school's profile.

A good opportunity for this is the Veteran's Advocacy Initiative that was kicked off by the ABA this past year. The Initiative seeks to provide legal and social aid to veterans across the country. Through my time as Seventh Circuit Governor of the ABA law student division, I have discovered all kinds of opportunities for law student participation in many different fields of law and met many individuals interested in involving the Kent community. As SBA president, I would like to help coordinate this effort.

In Conclusion:

For the past academic year, I have devoted an enormous amount of time to the Student Bar Association. In my capacity as Treasurer, however, most of that time was spent with my head buried in excel spread sheets and reimbursement forms. That said, I feel like I, and the members of my committee, were able to overcome some pretty tough obstacles in funding all of this year's organizations while paying down some of the debts left by previous boards.

This time, however, I want the opportunity to use what I've learned while on the board to set an agenda that focuses on the points I listed above. That said, I hope you'll consider voting for me for SBA president. And, as I always tried to sign off as treasurer, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

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Nicholas Mowbray

As current members of the SBA’s executive board, Nick and Kat have the experience, ideas, and communication skills to be a successful President/Vice-President team. Nick is currently the SBA Vice President. Kat is currently the SBA secretary. In the past year, we have both communicated with student organizations, Kent Faculty, and other integral players in the Kent community. Our experience on the executive board gives us the tools necessary to achieve results. We understand the problems that will confront these groups next year.

One of the main issues that we will approach aggressively is budgeting and finance. We intend to give student organizations hard and fast guidelines to assist them with the budgeting process. We think that accountability in both the SBA and the student organizations is missing. We want to change this by increasing transparency and cooperation between the two groups.

Another issue that we feel needs to be addressed is improving communication with both student organizations and with the student body in general. We feel it is essential for the different groups to be on the same page to be able to address the student body’s concerns more effectively. We hope to increase communication between the different groups by having an open door policy with all students at Chicago-Kent. This means we are willing, ready, and able to meet and discuss issues that you as the students feel need to be addressed. Our discussions will hopefully foster a better relationship within the law school community between the students, faculty, staff, and administration. Our bottom line is that we think addressing students’ concerns is the primary task of the Student Bar Association. We are both committed to addressing these concerns wholeheartedly.

Our experience, ideas, and communication skills will allow us to be a successful President/Vice President team next year. We hope that you the students see this and will give us the opportunity to proudly serve as your SBA President and Vice President.