

Andrew Wachter SBA 1L Delegate Application

Personal Statement

Thank you in advance for reviewing my application to join SBA as a student delegate for Fall 2022's 1L Cohort 2. My background prior to law school is not traditional. I graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign with degrees in Political Science and Communication. With my degree I interned and worked for the US Congress Ways and Means Committee, and Congressman Jim Costa. I also worked for NPR's Washington DC Affiliate, WAMU 88.5, and I took on other various political opportunities in my free time while living in Washington DC. I initially moved to Washington DC to fight for the rights of the shrinking working class. My primary attention was to how our nation does much less to empower working class people of color and immigrants. My political experience shined a light on my need to pursue a law degree to continue to fight for this cause. After I lost my job due to layoffs when covid hit I moved back to Illinois and started working to go to law school. I fought through adversity and learned how important it was to have a strong support system around me to achieve my goals. Now I want to work to continue to achieve these goals as an SBA delegate. I hope to empower all students regardless of background, race, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, or sexual identity. I want to work to bring all students together so we can embrace our differences and thought and opinion to forge new pathways and solutions as we grow together throughout law school and eventually go on to be attorneys fighting for a better tomorrow.

2022-2023 SBA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is your name, class? If you are a 1L, what cohort (section) are you in?

Andrew Wachter, I am in cohort 2, section 2A

2. Why do you want to be elected to this position?

I care deeply about the needs of my cohort, my class and all students at the university. There are always ways we can improve and continue to build a strong, competitive, and inclusive academic environment. I want to continue to push students at UIC to achieve excellence, create more ways for us to come together, and help resolve the wants and needs of the student body.

3. How do you handle conflict or disagreements between two parties that you have a working/personal relationship with?

I would first work to fully understand the position of each party, why they feel the way they do, and what they hope to accomplish, and then I would work to find compromise for both sides.

4. This continues to be an unprecedented year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,

how will you work to be a liaison between the SBA and your constituents (class and/or cohort members)?

I will regularly check in with my cohort with my fellow SBA representative via email or in class if necessary, and then provide regular updates back with resolutions or actions taken by the SBA.

5. If elected, what do you as a leader bring to this position that will help promote growth in the students around you?

My greatest strength as a leader is my approachability and my inclusivity. I truly desire to get to know each and every student at UIC on a personal level if I can, and I want to see everyone succeed. I will work to create opportunities for us to come together more in safe environments that everyone can feel welcome in.

6. How will you increase the visibility of the SBA legislative delegate position to your class and/or section members?

I would increase the visibility of the SBA legislative delegate position by asking teachers for quick opportunities to speak before and after class when there are updates, and regularly check up via email or provide a way for students to interact with me and my other delegate for my cohort on a regular basis.

7. As an elected position you are responsible for attending meetings and sharing the concerns of your constituents. What are important issues at UIC Law and how do you plan on working with SBA, faculty, and the student body to solve these issues?

The issues most important to me are creating an inclusive and professional environment, bringing students together so that we can utilize each other better for success, and raising awareness to students so that they know what type of impact they can have on the school.

8. How will you prioritize both the demand of law school and the responsibilities of this position?

I will dedicate time every week be available to the SBA and the students, and I will try to be around the law school regularly to be more physically accessible as well.

9. What role do you believe that SBA plays at UIC Law?

SBA should ensure that any important wants or needs that aren't currently being met by the school and faculty can be met.

10. What is your opinion, if any, about making changes at UIC Law in the area of racial equality and equity? Are there any solutions that you would want to see implemented?

There are always ways that Universities can improve equality and equity. We need to have a growth mindset to ensure we are always going above and beyond the call of duty to be inclusive to all

students regardless of race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity. If SBA doesn't already, working with specific on campus organizations could ensure that we all work together to create a safe environment.