



2022-2023 SBA Delegate Application

Kelly Q. Mindak

UIC LAW

1L: Cohort 3A

Personal Statement

My name is Kelly Mindak and I am currently a 1L at UIC Law. I graduated from Indiana University in 2021 with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a Graduate Certificate in Public Management in 2022. I am honored to be a part of the UIC Law community and am primarily interested in pursuing a career in Sports Law, as I was formally a student-athlete on the track and cross country teams at IU. I specialized in the middle distance events which included the 600m, 800m, 1500m, and mile. In addition to running, I love working out, reading, being outdoors, playing with my cat, and socializing with friends. My favorite T.V. show is probably Vampire Diaries and my favorite book (at the moment) is Verity by Colleen Hoover. A fun fact about me is that I grew up as a military brat and as a result, have lived in six different states. I am very lucky to say that moving so frequently has provided me with many diverse experiences and has given me the opportunity to encounter so many different types of people.

I am interested in running for a S.B.A. Delegate position because I am a team player and a people person. I love meeting new people and believe that I would find advocating for my class fulfilling. I recognize that everyone has a voice and everyone should be entitled to use it. I would be honored to provide our 1L class with that voice. Every 2L and 3L that I have spoken with has told me that law school is what you make of it. Law school is three short years and I want to ensure that our school environment is enjoyable and inclusive of everyone. Personally, I believe I learn the most from listening to others and would definitely implement what I have learned from my peers into my role as a Delegate. I look forward to continuing listening and learning from my colleagues and hope that you all will consider me to advocate for you. I am wishing you all the best and cheers to the start of our law school journey!

2022-2023 SBA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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

My name is Kelly Mindak and I am 1L1 in Cohort 3A.

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

I would like to be elected to this position because I not only wish to be involved in my school in some capacity, but I also would like to advocate for and provide a voice for our class. I want my colleagues to feel comfortable enough to share their

thoughts and ideas with me. Furthermore, I hope that my colleagues will entrust me with the responsibility of being an adequate spokesperson for them.

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

Overall, I would describe myself as both a team player and a peacemaker. I am not one that looks to argue or often enter into arguments with others. I appreciate that someone can have differing views and opinions from me. I am also not afraid of swallowing my pride and recognizing when I am in the wrong. If someone disagrees with me, I would encourage them to share their perspective on why they believe their ideas to be true. I believe I learn best by listening to others, even if that means they don't necessarily agree with me. I think the best solution is oftentimes proposed by meeting in the middle and incorporating ideas from 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 plan on keeping my cohort updated with information by sending my colleagues detailed emails as frequently as I need to. This would include sending emails promptly after each SBA meeting and ensuring I am constantly updating my colleagues with information they may need to succeed as it comes up.

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

I believe my strength as a leader stems from my positivity. I am someone who looks at the glass half full rather than half empty. It is no secret that law school is extremely challenging and can oftentimes be discouraging. I hope that my consistent positive attitude will be able to uplift my surrounding peers. In addition, I hope my peers find me to be someone they can lean on and confide in when they begin to face challenges both in their studies and everyday lives.

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

I intend to increase the visibility of the SBA legislative delegate position to my class by encouraging my colleagues to use their voice because their input is valuable. I am not necessarily looking to be elected to use my own voice, but rather to be the spokesperson for others.

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?

Law school can be a very competitive and stressful environment. I believe it is easy to get overwhelmed and fixated on the thought of “not belonging” in this profession (imposter syndrome). That being said, I firmly believe law school is what we do, but it is NOT who we are. I think it is important that my colleagues are provided the resources needed to take a step back, appreciate, and celebrate who they are outside of the classroom every once in a while. I want to be someone that advocates for individuality in the legal profession. In other words, I want to work on not letting law school overshadow who we are as people. Lawyers are people too and should be able to do the things they enjoy outside of their work.

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

Honestly, it sounds simple, but through time management I will be able to prioritize both the demand of law school and the responsibilities of this position. When an SBA meeting is coming up, I will ensure to be on top of my readings and assignments so that I will have the time available to devote myself entirely to being a sufficient advocate for my class.

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

I believe SBA gives law students a voice in their legal education. As I mentioned in my personal statement, I believe law school is what you make it. I think the SBA provides students with the opportunity to not only get involved, but also have a substantial say in what they wish their legal education to look like.

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?

I believe law school should be an environment that is inclusive of everyone. UIC Law advertises itself not only as being Chicago’s only public law school, but also being Chicago’s most diverse law school. The diversity of our school is something that we should celebrate and be proud of. What makes UIC Law special is the numerous different racial and ethnic backgrounds that make up the student body. I believe our school would benefit from being more intentional about how we incorporate our differences into our practice of law. I want to be someone that makes an effort to immerse myself into the life experiences of others in order to not only understand where they come from, but also what makes them so special.

One idea I would have is for SBA to host events that educate and celebrate different heritages. For example, September is Mexican Heritage month. Perhaps SBA could support and celebrate the members of our community who identify with this heritage by putting on an event where education is available, applicable cuisine is offered (food that is common/popular in the Mexican Heritage), and the opportunity to network and socialize with other colleagues is provided.