Student Body Elections Spring 2022
VOTE ONLINE Monday, March 29 – Tuesday March 30

Candidates

Student Representative Elections
Student Government Representatives formally represent their classmates to the Administration and advocate on their behalf. They also hold voting power in the Student Council.

Co- Presidents (2 positions, 1 ticket)
Azucena Marquez & Diego Negrón-Reichard
Joan Josiah & Mussab Ali

Director of Student Organizations (1 position)
Soraia Esteves

3L Representatives (4 positions)
J.R. Hamilton
Pablo A. Lozano
Usman Syed

2L Representatives (4 positions)
Aaron Nytes
Amanda Harrison
Austin Powell
Masooma Haider
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Candidate Statements

Co-Presidents (2 positions, 1 ticket; 2 candidate tickets)

1. Azucena Marquez & Diego Negrón-Reichard

Are the girl from Chicago/Mexico and the kid from Puerto Rico teaming up again to make HLS fun? Yes(!!!), Azucena and Diego are back, baby.

As 1L Section 4 co-presidents during zoom school, we started this beautiful/chaotic situationship. Since then, Azucena has devoted her time to the La Alianza Co-Presidency, the BSA, and TFing ConLaw, and Diego is now the EIC for the National Security Journal and has TFed for one too many 1Ls. We promise to leverage our collective leadership experience to make this next year one hell of a ride for our entire HLS community.

We also mean BUSINESS (**serious face**). We have ample experience working with and pushing back on the administration, and we are committed to advocating for you in these areas:

1) Mental Health Resources: We need to bring down those appointment wait times ASAP and at the same time improve access to counselors of color.

2) Summer Contribution Policy: This policy disproportionately affects our first-generation/low-income students. We will fight to decrease the percentage of your summer income that HLS takes away from you every summer to be more in-line with YLS and SLS.

3) Diversity of Tenured Faculty: Our faculty should represent a diversity of backgrounds and opinions. We will push to publish a hiring data report and use this as a stepping stone to enact change.

4) Public Interest: Increasing SPIF was a huge win, let’s continue to work on better supporting students who would like to pursue careers in public interest by improving LIPP.
5) Cross-Affinity Group Coalition: HLS flopped on the cross-affinity group coalition, and we will bring it back by convening the affinity group leadership immediately come Fall semester.

Vote for A&D! :)
2. Joan Josiah & Mussab Ali

The next several months present an opportunity for more meaningful connections between members of the HLS community. While Harvard Law School is known for its esteemed faculty, extensive clinics and generous financial aid (or maybe not), the most valuable part of our experience lies in the relationships we build with one another.

During our time at HLS, Joan, a staunch Brady Buncher#Section3 and member of BLSA and Texas Club, has served as President of the Harvard African Law Association, Community Engagement Chair for First Class and Chief of Staff for HLS Student Government. Mussab, a proud #Section7 Fox, has served on the board of the Muslim Law Students Association and was the activism coordinator for the Harvard Law Democrats, while serving in elected office for the past four years on his local Board of Education in Jersey City.

We have been part of weekly conversations between student government and admin that has deepened our understanding of what the real issues are with SPIF, Summer contribution, CAMHS and the Printing Policy. We’ve helped move the needle on key legislative issues whether it be through facilitating conversations between student advocacy groups and admin for SPIF/Summer contributions or canceling student lunch debt in a district of over 30,000 students. We know what has been done, what the administration has promised and we are here to make sure it continues to completion.

Combining our experiences in government as student leaders and President of the Jersey City board of education, we both ultimately want to serve the interests of HLS students. However, this isn’t possible without you—the HLS student body. We humbly ask for your vote and your support. Join us in creating a future where students, whether JD or LLM, are proud to be part of an active, vibrant, and uplifting community.

Can we create a student-centered Harvard Law community?

Can we work together to restore what we hoped our HLS experience would be?

Can we move HLS forward?

**Director of Student Organizations (1 position; 1 candidate)**
1. **Soraia Esteves**

Hey everyone! My name is Soraia Esteves and I am beyond excited to be running for the position of Director of Student Organizations. Serving as the 1L representative for Section 2 has been the highlight of my 1L year. I have enjoyed bringing the concerns of my section-mates, such as the impact of longer exams on students with accommodations, the mental health effects of the heavy 1L workload, and the lack of free coffee, to the attention of the administration. In doing so, it became evident how much the administration pushes back, even when student government advocates for simple and easy changes. Nonetheless, I am confident that with consistent pressure and collaboration with other groups on campus, we can effect real change here at HLS. This year, I want to continue advocating for what we as students deserve and to prioritize collaboration with other student organizations in doing so. I’m excited for this next year and I hope I get the opportunity to serve as your Director of Student Organizations.

3L Representatives (4 positions; 2 candidates)

1. **J.R. Hamilton**

During our 2L year, I had the pleasure of representing the incredible class of 2023. We accomplished a lot during this term, from drafting and passing various resolutions, putting forward the causes you all care about, to coming together closer as a community during our transition back to campus. We still have a lot of work to do, and I would be honored to run the last lap of this wild race as your 3L representative.

2. **Pablo A. Lozano**

My name is Pablo Lozano, and I am excited to be running for the position of 3L Representative. Being back on campus this academic year was a vast improvement from last year’s Zoom School of Law, but it also showed us that much work needs to be done to better support students on campus. Serving as a treasurer and VP on student organizations has given me ample exposure to DOS, CEEB, and faculty administrators, so I am familiar and comfortable working with the administration. Most importantly, I am aware of the reality that the administration operates on a different timeline than the
student body. Recognizing this contrast in priorities, I intend to champion both initiatives that can be implemented during my tenure and initiatives that will carry on to the next iteration(s) of student government to complete.

As a 3L representative, I will be an advocate for more mental health and wellness resources, access to more community events and programming, and securing additional funding for public interest opportunities that students and soon-to-be graduates can utilize. Ultimately, I am here to serve the student body, especially 3Ls, and represent your diverse set of interests, concerns, and priorities.

Thank you, and I look forward to the prospect of serving as a 3L Representative.

3. Usman Syed

Hi everyone! My name is Usman Syed, and I am a rising 3L from DC/Virginia. One of the most prominent grievances I have heard from our class is that spending our 1L year on Zoom robbed us of the pleasure of getting to know each other and building more meaningful relationships. As a 3L Representative, my main focus will be to work with administration to provide us with fun community-building experiences - with plenty of free food - so that we can mend some of the social wounds caused by Zoom School. I hope you will consider voting for me as one of your 3L Representatives!

2L Representatives (4 positions; 4 candidates)

1. Aaron Nytes

Hey everyone! I’m super excited to run for HLS Student Government and for the possibility to represent so many amazing current 1Ls during the course of the next year. My name is Aaron and I’m a 1L from Section 6 who hails from a small town in Wisconsin about 40 minutes away from Milwaukee (let’s go Bucks!). I have been involved in Student Government since middle school and my goal out of law school is to be involved in government back in Wisconsin, so this opportunity is right up my alley. If elected to HLS Student Government, I hope to amplify the voices of those with diverse lived experiences and work hard to foster community throughout the entire law school. I’ve really enjoyed my time at HLS and I hope to be able to use a platform like this to prioritize marginalized students while simultaneously improving things for the
entire student body. A couple of changes I am looking to make are improving affordable textbook options, creating more events to cultivate new friendships, and expanding public interest assistance for students pursuing those careers. I hope you will consider voting for me to be your 2L Representative!

2. Amanda Harrison

Hi everyone! My name is Amanda Harrison, and I am a current 1L Student Representative for Section 7. It has been a privilege this year to work with the members of our Student Government, a passionate group of individuals committed to giving the student body a voice, encouraging greater transparency from the administration, and improving the law school experience for present and future students at HLS. I would be thrilled to continue serving as a representative for my class next year. If elected, in addition to serving as a resource and advocate for my peers, I have several concrete goals that I hope to achieve. These include: 1) pooling the insights of my fellow (rising) 2Ls to craft a comprehensive guidebook filled with advice, support, and resources to help incoming students navigate the crazy ride of 1L; 2) creating a platform to consolidate the vast and disparate array of important HLS-related information that we receive (ie: from canvas, amicus, helios, OPIA, OCS, toodope, hls intel, student financial services, health services, etc); and 3) collaborating with the other 2L representatives to create more opportunities and events for students to cultivate meaningful connections. Above all, I care about making HLS a place where every student feels welcome, supported, and able to thrive. If elected, I will use my position as 2L Rep to further that goal.

3. Austin Powell

Hey y’all! My name is Austin Powell, and I’ve been serving as the 1L student representative for Section 3. I’ve enjoyed my time in Student Government this year. I’ve also learned how tough student advocacy can be with administration and the barriers students face while making simple changes. This year I’ve joined the committee on governance to get a more efficient student government, and I’ve had the privilege of working with current student government leadership. This year, I want to continue my work by representing the 2Ls as a 2L Student Rep. Student Government is essential to supporting student activism and making sure students’ voices are heard. I am confident in the foundation and hard work Faith and Gabe has provided HLS Student Government and the students. I am excited to continue utilizing the student
government’s position to help the administration become more transparent in weighing priorities and making decisions affecting students. I know I haven’t met all of the 2Ls, but I hope to continue meeting everyone and I’m able to be a listener and advocate for those who need it.

4. Masooma Haider

Hey everyone! My name is Masooma, and I am a proud section 3er hailing from the Midwest. As many of you have likely also realized throughout 1L, there are many areas for growth at HLS. I am eager to create change and make this place worth the price tag. At the core of my philosophy is creating a more just and sustainable HLS community. That is why I started the free food notifications at HLS to eliminate food waste after events (and also, because food!). The same philosophy underscores my desire to use a position on student government to advocate for: your right to real breaks during exams; a student-run coffee shop that is open during the evenings; an evening van that runs past 2AM; a convenience store on campus; increased funding and financial support for public-interest students; Spanish language immersion opportunities for 2Ls during J-term; funding for domestic and international travel; and timely recording policies and mental health services, to name a few ideas. I would love to meet with and listen to your concerns as future 2Ls, and fight for the issues you care about the most. I hope to help every single one of you be seen and heard by the HLS administration—especially those of you who are likewise hailing from underrepresented communities and are tired of facing countless barriers to access. My goal is to build a smoother HLS experience for us all (and one where our academic experience can no longer be summed as “hazing”). Please consider voting for me to be one of your 2L reps!