

**HLS Student Government
2025-2026 Elections**

Candidate(s): Salah-Dean Satouri & Chris Egi

Position: Co-Presidents

Candidate Statement:

Chris and Salah - Protecting What Matters. Building What's Possible

While student government was not initially in either of our plans. We are running for co-president because we are presently in a moment that demands more of us. Our community is facing unprecedented challenges: free speech is under attack, students fear for their academic and professional futures, divisions within our student body have deepened, and our lunches at the Hark have surpassed \$25. In this critical moment, we need leadership that will unify, advocate, and fight for all students.

This campaign is not about us – it's about our student body. We came to HLS to fight against injustice, and now, more than ever before, it is critical that we stand strong and we stand together. We have seen first hand how student leadership can make a difference, to push on the administration to create space for those that may feel unwelcome or underrepresented, and to stand up for justice even when the repercussions are severe. I, Salah-Dean, came to HLS because last year, I felt voiceless. As an Arab and Muslim American, I watched my community in pain without anyone to listen, and I viewed HLS as a place to grow, to learn, and gain a voice. Chris came to HLS to support the communities he cares about most, the Black community at Harvard and beyond.

Today, we are proud to announce our candidacy for student body co-presidents. This campaign is about two things: protecting what matters most, and building what's possible together.

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS

Defending free speech and academic freedom:

HLS must be a place for open discourse. However, recent events have put free expression under threat and a target on our school. Law schools in particular, must be bastions for civil liberties, where students feel safe to openly engage in discourse, challenge ideas, and grow intellectually. As an Arab and Muslim American I (Salah-Dean), have been fearful to embrace my identity, or even speak up for my community. And I (Chris), as an international student, now know that my status and place at HLS could be jeopardized by the things I say in and outside of the classroom. This is unacceptable. As presidents we will:

Demand clear policies from the administration to protect students from external, internal, and professional retaliation.

Establish a Student Advocacy Committee to assist students facing external threats due to their speech or activism.

Ensure that all students, regardless of their political stance, can participate in an academic environment that values rigorous debate and free expression.

Rebuilding trust and unity

Harvard Law School stands at a crossroads. In this critical moment, when our student body is most divided, we need leadership that will unify, advocate, and fight for all students. Will we work with affinity groups and student orgs to promote cross-group dialogue. Help host fun events such as ice skating days, fall apple picking trips, and other ways to interact with the community. We also want to tap HLS into the broader Boston area through facilitating volunteering efforts by creating a newsletter with opportunities and monthly volunteering trips. We believe a connected community is a stronger community.

BUILDING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Supporting Public Interest as a Collective Commitment

Harvard has long claimed to train the next generation of public leaders, but too many students pursuing that path are left to navigate it alone. For many student's it can often feel like careers in public interest are treated like a side program. It's not. It is a core reason many of us are here. Yet the resources and support often fall short of the rhetoric. Public interest students still struggle with limited bar prep funding, lack of resources regarding financial possibility and post-grad uncertainty. At the same time, students pursuing movement lawyering or organizing face institutional barriers that suggest their work is less valued than more traditional legal careers.

We believe HLS should be the best place in the world to prepare for public service. That requires institutional commitment, financial investment, and a culture that honors, not just tolerates, students choosing justice over prestige. No one should have to sacrifice their mental health, financial future, or basic stability to do work that matters. Supporting public interest should not be an exception. It should be the rule.

Protecting our Schools Commitment to Diversity

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just slogans. They are the reason many of us came to Harvard Law School in the first place. But right now, these values are under coordinated attack, from courts, from politicians, and from institutional complacency. The rollback of affirmative action has already had real consequences, and the chilling effect is being felt across campus..

We cannot allow this moment to erase the progress that generations of students fought for. Diversity must be protected through funding, admissions policy, and cultural change. The

strength of Harvard Law has always come from the range of experiences, identities, and voices it brings together. That cannot be lost, not now, not on our watch..