

Drake Law 1L students,

**My name is Anthony J. Zarzycki and I hope to earn your vote to serve as our class's Honor Board Representative on the Student Bar Association.**

The main mission of the Honor Board Representative is to ensure the Honor Code is upheld. It includes encouraging members of our law school to exercise their full rights and investigating referrals to the Honor Board in instances of violations with impartial, fair judgement. I decided to run for this position because I've seen what happens when a school's honor code isn't upheld to protect the dignity of students. I hope by being on the Honor Board, if I am ever in a similar situation, I will do better.

This story begins while I was an undergraduate running for student government. I was invited by one of the "slates" (a President and Vice President ticket with a list of recommended students for other positions) to their group chat. I immediately found messages that were humiliating to other students, that were discriminatory, and, in the worst instance, that detailed a violent action a student had taken toward another student in an attempt to change their vote.

I first raised my concerns to the student government's judicial body. They responded by saying that because this was in the context of student government, the victim/s would need to raise the issue at a public student government meeting and be adjudicated by their peers on student government. I wasn't satisfied with this. I chose to redact the messages, removing personal information and names, and brought it to the student government faculty advisor. I was told the same thing I heard from the judicial body. I reached out to our student newspaper. They never replied. It was only when I brought it to a student-run blog which focused on sharing the voices of marginalized students on our campus that the story was publicized and our university would finally announce that they would open an investigation into the matter.

Despite being ejected from the slate and losing my race, I remain proud of my decision to **defend our college's honor code and, more fundamentally, what it exists for: defending the dignity of students.**

These experiences, I hope, demonstrate my personal commitment to making sure that my peers have the full respect and rights they deserve, and it's why I am asking you for your vote to serve as the 1L Honor Board Representative.

Thank you,

Anthony J. Zarzycki

## **SBA Candidate Questionnaire**

Turn in this questionnaire with your petition. Please answer each question in 50 words or less. This questionnaire will be distributed amongst the law school along with the photo you submit. If you do not submit a photo, your Drake ID photo may be used.

### **What is your name and your pronouns?**

Anthony J. Zarzycki (he/him)

### **Where are you from?**

The Poconos, Pennsylvania

### **What did you do before law school?**

I graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2018 and pursued jobs in elections, political organizing, and digital fundraising.

### **Why did you decide to come to law school?**

My electoral and organizing work couldn't fulfill the change I wanted to see in the world. In 2024 I volunteered to do voter protection: I met a newlywed who was turned away because they legally updated their now-hyphenated name but didn't update it on their voter registration; an arthritic woman whose mail-in ballot was rejected for failing a signature match; and a divorcee whose ex-spouse had destroyed the documents necessary for them to prove their citizenship. None of them would get the legal representation they needed to vote — I don't want to be as helpless when I see voter disenfranchisement in the future.

### **Please describe your previous leadership experience.**

I've organized a public service trip for a college club, co-founded an LGBTQ-rights nonprofit which worked with municipalities to draft ordinances on conversion therapy, served as a union steward and executive member of the Campaign Workers Guild, and created my own digital fundraising firm with clients from mayoral to Congressional candidates.

### **Why do you want to be in the SBA?**

I want to be in SBA because I was accepted late to Drake Law, so I want to use this not only as an opportunity for me to meet my other peers but also to be there for other students who might feel they're still figuring out their place here. When I arrived, I wasn't in any friend group or preconceived box, and that gives me the freedom to see past those boundaries in others.

### **List three adjectives that describe yourself.**

Empathetic, transparent, optimistic.

### **Tell us something interesting about yourself.**

I'm a plant person. My grandmother suffered from early-onset dementia and passed away while I was in college: for over a decade, I've propagated her spider plant and aloe, giving pups to family and friends across multiple states. After the election, if you'd ever like one, please feel free to ask — I'd be honored.

