

Addison Upchurch

Letter of Intent

1L Representative / Honor Board Representative

Dear SBA and 1L Class,

I am writing to express my intention to run for election to the position of either 1L Representative or Honor Board Representative. I believe that I am well-qualified to serve in either role, and I would be honored to represent our class with integrity, transparency, and a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of each and every one of my classmates.

I bring a breadth of experience that I am confident would aid me in the execution of the duties that, with your allowance, would be entrusted to me. I spent five years in the Marine Corps where I learned the value of personal sacrifice, the importance of appreciating the little things, and what it really means to be part of something bigger and greater than oneself. During my undergraduate studies in anthropology, I came to understand that most things in life exist on a spectrum. That perspective taught me to invest in listening before speaking, to approach each challenge with consideration and empathy, and to never assume your way is the right way.

In sharing this with you honestly, I'd be remiss to exclude the experience that has matured and prepared me most of all: becoming a parent. Motherhood taught me the power of fierce and dedicated advocacy, strengthened my patience (those who get it, get it), and instilled in me the importance of consistently showing up. Sometimes, just being present can make all the difference.

While I do consider myself an ambitious person by nature, my choice to run for this position is not motivated by ambition for its own sake. For me, this is an opportunity to serve my community and to ensure that the incredibly diverse mosaic of individuals who make up our law school are heard and supported. I want to help maintain a Student Bar Association that reflects our values, fosters authentic connection, and champions academic excellence, inclusion, and authenticity.

I'm ready and excited to do good work for our law school and to represent your interests. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Addison Upchurch

Drake Law School

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?

My name is Addison Upchurch. My pronouns are she/her.

Where are you from?

I'm from Harrisburg, a small town in southeastern Illinois. I moved around a lot after high school, though. Before coming to Des Moines, I spent four years living near the beach in southern California.

What did you do before law school?

Before law school, I was on active duty for five years with the United States Marine Corps, working in the intelligence field. I was simultaneously completing my undergraduate degree in anthropology remotely through Western Illinois University.

Why did you decide to come to law school?

My motivations for being here at Drake are centered around my son, Calian. He's the guiding force in my life, and everything I do is with the goal of becoming someone he can be proud of. I believe law school will give me the tools and experience to be my best for him.

Please describe your previous leadership experience.

I thrive in roles that call for assertiveness and accountability. As a Sergeant in the Marine Corps, I led a close-knit team through daily operations and high-stress environments. I've also held leadership roles in various odd jobs, and I'm confident in my ability to guide, support, and get things done.

Why do you want to be in the SBA?

I want to join the SBA to better connect with all of you and to challenge myself to stay engaged. I'd be proud to represent our class, serve as a conduit between Drake leadership and the student body, and—most importantly—champion the issues that matter most to you.

List three adjectives that describe yourself.

Candid, optimistic, and resilient.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I once took the controls of a C-130 Hercules military aircraft. The pilot quickly took back over after I asked what would happen if I tried to flip us upside down.

