








2023-2024 SBA Voter's Guide

PRESIDENT:	Choose 1
	<p>Caitlin McDuffee – President</p> <p>Hey, y'all! My name is Caitlin McDuffee, and I want to be your next SBA President.</p> <p>From being a 1L representative to currently serving as your State Bar of Texas (SBOT) Law Student Division Senior Representative, I have loved every opportunity to serve you. This has included helping section mates with their concerns, raising money for the community, and revitalizing SBOT's presence on campus, for which over 145 of y'all have registered for this semester alone! In each of these instances, I have cherished engaging and building strong relationships with you all.</p> <p>As your SBA President, I'll continue to be reliable, dedicated, and approachable, ready to hear your wants and needs. Further, as a 3L, I will have the time to fully dedicate myself to being your SBA President. This means I will be consistently available to listen to your concerns and act as the bridge between you and the faculty. Let me work for you because you deserve to have your voice amplified and for this campus to better serve you, the students.</p>
	<p>Gunner West – President</p> <p>My name is Gunner West, and I am running to be your next President of the Student Bar Association. Over the past two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in SBA as 1L Representative and Treasurer. I want to continue my commitment to our community by serving as your next SBA President.</p> <p>I am committed to cultivating a vibrant and engaged South Texas community because I am deeply rooted within it—through my participation in the Advocacy Program, my contributions to Law Review, my involvement in SBA, and my leadership in various other student organizations on campus. Because of these many touchpoints, I have been able to connect with a variety of circles within the student body and to hear from you on how we can do better.</p> <p>As your next President, I promise to further expand my engagement on campus and to be available to those of you I have yet to hear from, because I want to hear directly from each and every one of you. To keep my promise, I am providing you with my phone number so you can reach out to me whenever YOU need to be heard: (832) 477-8029.</p> <p>SBA exists to support the student body, and as your President, I will be your advocate—to hear your concerns and represent your voice. Together, we will implement a shared vision for our law school and continue to build upon South Texas's legacy.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Vote Gunner West for SBA President.</p>

VICE PRESIDENT:	Choose 1
	<p>Ryan Morales - Vice President</p> <p>Hi, my name is Ryan Morales and I am running to be your SBA Vice President. I value the tradition and community here at STCLH. As SBA Vice President I want to continue and develop these foundations for all students.</p> <p>The SBA Vice President role involves running the annual Houston Food Bank fundraiser. Planning and coordinating this event requires time, commitment, and leadership. Other requirements include organizing and communicating various events with proper departments at STCLH.</p> <p>For multiple years I have had the privilege to be a part of SBA. This past year I served as your SBA Freshman Senator. This allowed me to work on the Houston Food Bank fundraiser by coordinating with the 1L Representatives from each section. I also helped formulate the STCLH & SBA Mentor-Mentee Program this year. This role enabled me to make many connections and learn from others. I hope to continue this path from a more pivotal role that will help students succeed.</p> <p>My other leadership experience includes President of the First-Generation Law Student Association. This position helped me understand how to solve the difficulties that come with running and developing an organization. I am also a member of the Hyla Leadership Academy. This role has allowed me to learn how to plan events effectively. I believe these experiences provide me with the necessary skills to be your Vice President for the Student Bar Association.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your vote as much as you can count on me! #AlignwithRyan</p>
	<p>Sarah Zepeda - Vice President</p> <p>One of the Vice President's main responsibilities is to organize and coordinate the student body's annual food drive benefiting the Houston Food Bank. According to the Houston Food Bank, 1 in 8 Texans experiences food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to enough nutritious food. 31% of those people reported having to decide between paying for their education or buying food. And one of the four ways the Houston Food Bank says we can help—become an advocate.</p> <p>As VP, I am confident we can demonstrate that STCL students are not only advocates inside the courtroom, but also advocates for those facing hunger and food insecurity within our community. Last year, we raised nearly \$16,000 for the Houston Food Bank. With your vote, I believe we can increase that total to \$23,000 in honor of STCL's centennial year.</p> <p>I'm passionate about being a bridge between students and administration. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the SBA board as a 1L Representative and Mid-Law Senator, and plan to use this experience to continue serving as a representative for our student body.</p> <p>I am committed to advocating for and serving our community. I'm grateful for your time and your vote for me, Sarah Zepeda, for Vice President!</p>

SECRETARY:	Choose 1 - Unopposed
	<p>Bayley Holland – Secretary</p> <p>Howdy! My name is Bayley Holland, and I am running for SBA Secretary. For the past year, I have had the amazing opportunity to serve as the SBA Secretary and I look forward to serving again.</p> <p>During my time at STCL I have been involved in SBA, Advocacy, CURRENTS, and Aggie Law Students Association. As a student I am passionate about my studies and pursuing my legal skills, but as your SBA board member I am passionate about making sure SBA is here for you. As secretary, my duties are to help make sure SBA is operating at its fullest potential. These duties include monitoring our board member's office hours, keeping minutes/setting forth agenda for SBA meetings, reserving spaces/equipment for meetings, and keeping the SBA website up to date. SBA is here for the students, and by working closely with the president and board, I will work zealously to make sure that we keep it that way. In order to keep this promise I need your support, re-elect Bayley Holland for Secretary.</p>
TREASURER	Choose 1 - Unopposed
	<p>Emily Blanco – Treasurer</p> <p>Howdy! My name is Emily Blanco. I am running to be your next Treasurer for the Student Bar Association. Over the past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a 1L Class Representative for Section B. I am eager to grow and continue my involvement in SBA to help facilitate terrific events for all of you. I am positive that I will continue contributing to SBA and the South Texas community by serving as your SBA Treasurer.</p> <p>As your Treasurer, I will be responsible for managing the SBA funds to ensure we maximize our resources to put on the best events possible. I graduated from The University of Houston with a Pre-Law degree, and I have experience in finance before law school when I worked at Goldman Sachs & Co. as a Senior Legal Analyst. So I know what it takes to responsibly manage a budget while fully utilizing our resources here at South Texas. If you vote for me as your next SBA Treasurer, I will use these skills to help foster a vital and engaged South Texas community.</p> <p>I am thankful for your time and vote for me, Emily Blanco, for SBA Treasurer.</p>

SENIOR SENATORS:	Choose 2 - Unopposed
	<p>Elizabeth Hart – Senior Senator</p> <p>Hi there! My name is Elizabeth Hart, and I am honored to have your consideration to be your next Senior Senator.</p> <p>I believe South Texas has a strong foundation in community. And I believe South Texas strongly desires the student body to feel a part of something larger than themselves while attending law school. I have experienced this sense of community serving this past year as your SBA Freshman Senator, and I would be honored to continue serving as your next Senior Senator.</p> <p>In my role as Freshman Senator, I was encouraged and challenged to bring others into the fold of this South Texas community. Through the opportunity to co-facilitate the Mentor-Mentee Program, I witnessed the strength of this student body continue to develop and grow.</p> <p>As your Senior Senator, I will continue to strengthen this sense of community found in South Texas. This role includes encouraging young alumni and students to participate in events and programs. My experience facilitating the Mentor-Mentee program prepared me well for this role as it instilled in me the importance of mentorship and forming a legal community. Additionally, as Senior Senator, I would assist the Graduation Committee in creating a graduation experience where all will feel the impact of South Texas College of Law Houston.</p> <p>Throughout this year, I loved the opportunity to serve as your SBA Freshman Senator, and I would be honored to serve as your next Senior Senator.</p> <p>Remember, Be Smart & Vote for Elizabeth Hart!</p>
	<p>Jonathon Mills – Senior Senator</p> <p>Hi, my name is Jonathon Mills, and I am running to be your Senior Senator for the 2023-2024 academic year. One of my responsibilities as your Senior Senator will be assisting in graduation to ensure it's a flawless and memorable event for us all. Additionally, my role will ensure that the Class of 2024 gives an unforgettable senior class gift from the graduating class to South Texas. I look forward to opening a dialogue between the Senior Senators and the student body in a way that allows us to make that gift extraordinary.</p> <p>I previously served as an SBA 1L Representative and loved getting to know all of the wonderful people in the South Texas community. I currently serve as a Mid-Law Senator on the SBA Board of Governors. Through my position, I have enjoyed the opportunity to plan rooftop socials, off-campus mixers, and the annual Halloween party. As a result, I have experience and know what it means to serve the students of South Texas.</p> <p>I am looking forward to continuing the growth of our community. I appreciate your time and consideration. Vote for me, and let's leave our mark and take on next year together!</p>

MID-LAW SENATORS:	Choose 2
	<p>Ashlyn Akhtar - Mid-Law Senator</p> <p>Hi, friends! I'm Ashlyn Akhtar and I would love the opportunity to be your next Mid-Law Senator! I am currently serving as a 1L Representative. This means I have insight in the planning and improvement to the various events our student body enjoys, such as rooftop socials, the Halloween party, and Barristers Ball. As Mid-Law Senator, my goal is to continue building upon the foundation these events have by fostering an environment of inclusivity and connection, which will lead to memories we'll take with us beyond our 3 years at South Texas!</p> <p>We work hard here, so we deserve a few events that entice us to attend and allow us to take a breather... Let me plan those for you! I have a passion for people and seeing others enjoy themselves by sharing a good laugh and creating memories together, and these events are that opportunity! If given the chance, I promise to keep YOU in mind each step of the way and advocate for new ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>I hope you'll give me the opportunity to serve you and make South Texas College of Law Houston a place that feels like home for everyone!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>"The Student Bar wants Akhtar!"</u></p>
	<p>Sam Kaminsky - Mid-Law Senator</p> <p>Hi, my name is Sam Kaminsky, and I would love to serve as a Mid-Law Senator of the Student Bar Association for 2023-2024. I want to serve on SBA, because of the opportunity to help facilitate events and foster a supportive student body.</p> <p>As a law student, I recognize the importance of academics; however, a balanced social life has always been important to me. After completing my first semester, I grew to recognize the significance of meeting students outside of the classroom setting. As Mid-Law Senator, I will ensure that students at South Texas experience the same welcoming environment that SBA provided for me in my 1L year.</p> <p>As Mid-Law Senator, my duties will be to coordinate and promote the social functions for the student body. I will work with the other Mid-Law Senator and the rest of the Student Bar Association to plan fun, unique, and engaging social events throughout the Fall and Spring semesters.</p> <p>In addition to the Barrister's Ball and Halloween Party, I will focus my energy on planning frequent events on the Library Rooftop and continuing traditional SBA events. As Mid-Law Senator, my goal is to ensure that we enjoy our time and experience at South Texas. To have the best experience possible, I will be approachable, listen to feedback, and use my position to become an advocate for the student body.</p> <p>Thank you and I appreciate your support!</p>



Elizabeth “Lizzy” Stevenson - Mid-Law Senator

Hey y’all! My name is Lizzy Stevenson, and I’m running for Mid-Law Senator for the 2023-2024 academic year. The responsibilities of a Mid-Law Senator include developing, promoting, and running social functions like Terrace and Atrium Parties, End of Semester Parties, the annual Halloween party, and Barrister’s Ball. If elected, I’m certain that I can successfully execute the duties of this position and exceed your expectations.

I am currently an SBA 1L Representative and have held officer positions in many student organizations before law school, so I am well-prepared for this role. My goal as a Mid-Law Senator is to increase efficiency and communication in the event planning process so that the entire student body has an opportunity to enjoy our school’s social events. I’ll accomplish this goal by using social media, online polling, QR codes, and other tools to manage projects, advertise events, and sell tickets. I also want to elevate these events by lobbying for the best venues, refreshments, and entertainment.

Law school is tough, and it's important to take a break every once in a while. As your SBA Mid-Law Senator, I am looking forward to adding value to your law school experience through the events that I help plan and run. I appreciate your time and kindly ask for your vote!

FRESHMAN SENATORS:

Choose 2 - Unopposed





Davis Patrick Burns – Freshman Senator


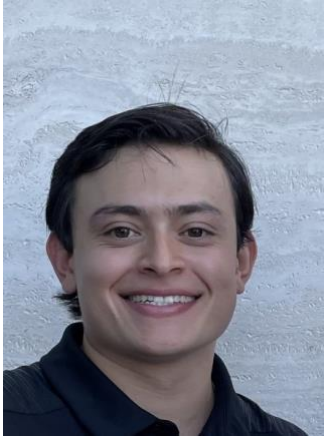
There is always a path forward. I had to learn that the hard way. As many students know, I dropped out of law school after my father passed away before finals of fall 2021. I solved the mountain of problems for my family in an awful six months of reliving everything that had happened and have returned to finish what I started.


My name is Davis Patrick Burns. Since I returned, I committed to getting more involved and am proud to serve as a current SBA representative for my section. As a native Houstonian, service to the community is something that has been instilled in me from an early age. I was taught that part of accomplishing something and moving on after a massive loss is assuming responsibility to help those in similar positions, whether offering guidance or simply being someone to talk to.

It is inevitable there will be future 1L students who have similar awful situations and think there is just no path forward in law school. I want to be someone visible to the incoming 1L class to show that there is always a path forward no matter how hectic one’s personal life is. I respectfully ask for your vote to assume this responsibility of helping future 1L students in positions I was in find their path forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

PART-TIME SENATOR:	Choose 2 - Unopposed
	<p>Marisol Granados – Part-Time Senator</p> <p>Hi! My name is Marisol, and I am running for 2023-2024 SBA Part-Time Student Senator. I am currently a Part-Time 1L Rep for SBA, a 1L Rep for the Immigration Law Society and I just started a new org on campus called the Lawtina Network.</p> <p>As a Part-Time 1L Rep for SBA, I had the opportunity to speak for part-time and spring-start students to encourage the creation of a spring semester Find Your Org Event to create a new opportunity for students, particularly part-time and spring-starts, to become more involved in student organizations at South Texas.</p> <p>As a Part-Time Student Senator, I will find new ways to make part-time students feel more included and foster a stronger connection between part-time and full-time students.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
	<p>Latricia Rounds – Part-Time Senator</p> <p>Greetings, South Texas College of Law! I am running for the 2023-2024 SBA Part-Time Student Senator position. I am a current 2L part-time student and would love to continue the opportunity to be your part-time student senator for a second year. If selected, I will continue to work with other SBA Senators to bridge the gap between part-time and full-time students. Be a dependable resource for information and engagement among all part-time students and lead with compassion toward my fellow and future colleagues. Vote for me, Latricia Rounds, for the 2023-2024 SBA Part-Time Student Senator.</p>

ABA LAW STUDENT DIV. REP.	Choose 2 - Unopposed
	<p>Kalli Matson – ABA Law Student Division Rep.</p> <p>Hi! My name is Kalli Matson, and I am running to be your American Bar Association Representative for the Student Bar Association. I grew up in Flower Mound, TX and graduated from Texas A&M University in 2021. Gig 'em! I have had the pleasure of being a 1L Representative for the 2021-2022 school year, and the ABA Law Student Division Representation for the 2022-2023 year. Having a leadership position in SBA has made my law school career even more fulfilling, and I am excited to maintain my role as your ABA Representative.</p> <p>Serving others has always been an important aspect in my life, and as your ABA Representative I will help be the student body's voice to advocate for our students. I want to increase South Texas' student membership in the ABA and educate our students on the benefits and services that an ABA Law Student Division membership provides. Do you like career advice, discounts, and networking opportunities? Me too! As your ABA Representative I will get you connected to these perks, educate you on ABA memberships, and help you navigate through your law school career.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, I am looking forward to working for you!</p>
	<p>Jacob Monty – ABA Law Student Division Rep.</p> <p>Hello everyone, my name is Jacob Monty, and I am running to be your ABA Representative. The American Bar Association (ABA) is an amazing association run by lawyers that aim to foster growth and development via advocacy, education, and service. Since attending law school, I had heard about the ABA, but I never fully grasped the scope of their influence and just how much they work to provide law students with invaluable opportunities.</p> <p>This semester, I had the privilege of attending the ABA Mid-Year Conference. In just a few days, I learned how valuable it is to have a network of experienced lawyers whose primary objective is to learn from each other and help each other succeed.</p> <p>I'm running to be your ABA Representative because I want to be a bridge that connects us students with the incredible opportunities the ABA offers. I'm especially interested in developing environments where we can network and learn from other attorneys who have walked the same path we are walking now. I want to emphasize the importance of networking and organize sessions where professionals can come in and advise us on crucial skills we need to learn to be effective communicators. I will do my best to represent everything positive STCL has to offer. I will ensure that all law students are aware of ABA events happening nationally and locally in Houston.</p> <p>Thanks, and Gig'em.</p>

STATE BAR OF TEXAS LAW STUDENT DIVISION:	Choose 1 - Unopposed
	<p>Jacob Manley – State Bar of Texas Law Student Division Representative</p> <p>Hey y’all, my name is Jacob Manley, and I am running for the State Bar of Texas Law Student Division Representative. I am from Houston, Texas and I graduated from Texas A&M before moving on to South Texas. This past year I really enjoyed being a 1L rep for my section and getting everybody as involved as possible with school events, such as the Houston Food Bank Donation Drive. With your help I would like to continue to represent not only my section but the entire school and help you all get familiar with the State bar and learn everything you can.</p> <p>This role would allow me to get to know more of my classmates and assist them in all aspects of the State bar and help them in any way that I can. I would actively assist in not only my State bar position, but I will reach out to the other SBA positions and assist them with any needs that they may have. A vote for me is a vote for a guy that will help you with anything, in school or outside of school!</p> <p>If any of y’all have questions, don’t hesitate to ask me.</p> <p>Thanks for voting!</p>