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## The Cross Examiner

Seton Hall University School of Law

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## Office/Photo: PRESIDENT



## S.B.A. E-BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES

*The Cross Examiner* interviewed every E-Board candidate. Here's what they have to say:

### Jay Goldberg, 2L

**Undergraduate Education:** University of Maryland. **Favorite Book:** *Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger.

**SHU involvement:** Jay has served Seton Hall Law as a SBA Senator. He is the Vice-chairman of the LRW Committee, a member of the Academic Curriculum Committee, and a member of the Budget Process Reform Committee. Jay is a Mentor for first-year students, and is a member of the Mock Trial Team Board.

**Goals for the Future:** If elected, Jay will focus his efforts to strike a balance between bolstering our reputation in the legal community and enhancing both opportunities and the student-experience. He will work alongside the administration to improve on three crucial areas, employment, curriculum, and community. With regards to employment, Jay will work with OCS to develop creative and constructive new ways to connect students with alumni and expand upon our alumni network. Particularly, he wants to pursue change by the implementing of mandatory advising sessions with OCS advisors on a semesterly basis to allow the law school to gain a pulse on the employment process of our students. When it comes to curriculum, he plans to fight for the expansion of the skills program, including the classes offered and the amount of credits allowed, as well as working to reform the LRW program. He wants to foster a strong law school community by developing more social events including intra-school events with other local law schools. He also plans on reforming the budget allocation process to include an appeals process and ensure student funds are distributed in an equitable manner. For specific bullet-pointed goals Jay has planned, they are all listed at <http://votegoldberg.wordpress.com/>.

**Why me:** After proving to be a dedicated member of the SBA, Jay has decided it is time to do more to help the school and continue to foster a good relationship with the students. Over the past two years, Jay has developed close relationships with many of the students and has identified areas for improvement and student concern. Jay says his friendly personality and driven attitude lend themselves easily to him achieving positive changes for the SHU Law community. He is not afraid to speak up and work hard for what he believes in. If he sees something wrong or unfair, he says he will not sit by idly but instead will fight back to make a change. When he first started Seton Hall, he promised himself that he would do everything possible to prove himself worthy of the honor of attending the Law School and give back in every way he could to make the school the best place for our future. When he starts a project, he sees it through start to finish and the only way he can do that is through a successful presidency. He knows his experience and leadership make him the candidate best suited to serve as the leader of our student government.

**Fun fact:** Jay's dad looks just like Bruce Springsteen and is often confused for him.

### Victor Campos, 2L

**Undergraduate Education:** University of California Berkeley. **Favorite Book:** More of a magazine reader.

**SHU involvement:** Victor is member is numerous student organizations at Seton Hall, including LALSA, IPLA, Health Law Forum, Environmental Law Society, Tax Law Society, SAVE R Us, Federal Society, Seton Hall Law School Dance Club, Sports Club, and Brother in Arms. He is an NJ LEEP mentor and tried out for the SHU Law basketball team. He is a two-year veteran of the UVA Softball Tournament and is a coach for a 1L/2L UVA Softball Team. He is also a regular at the ping-pong table in the multi-purpose room.

**Goals for the Future:** Victor wants all students to be better off than the year before, with better experiences and better employment opportunities.

**Why me:** Victor says he is the best candidate because of his leadership, professional experience, inter-personal skills, courage, established network with the school administration, integral part of the school. He is able to facilitate concerns between staff and students.

**Fun fact:** Victor was in the US Navy, but he cannot swim and gets seasick.





### Zimmy Bajrami, 2L

**Undergraduate Education:** Austin State University **Favorite Book:** *JFK – The Pleasure of His Company*.

**SHU involvement:** Zimmy is proud of his service as an active SBA Senator. As a senator, Zimmy never missed an SBA roll call, and he volunteered for duty on three committees. On behalf of the SBA, Zimmy planned a “Day of Service” set for April 7th to coincide with Child Abuse Awareness Month for Newark’s Wynona’s House Child Advocacy Center. Volunteers from the law school will paint Wynona’s House common areas in the morning, provide pizza for the kids at lunch, and then host a carnival day in the afternoon. Zimmy has also been involved in efforts to improve our environment by getting new recycling bins added to heavily trafficked areas of the school, touring the facilities to research ways to cut utilities, and identifying means of waste disposal that needed relabeling and relocating. Additionally, Zimmy is a Mentor to a great group of 1L students and he volunteered to help with orientation last fall. He volunteered to give tours of the campus to admitted students, showed his support by attending law school functions, and made the most of every opportunity get to know his classmates.

**Goals for the Future:** Zimmy’s overall goal is for the students and SBA to be noticeably better off when he leaves than they are now. As President, his method to achieve this goal will be to listen first, and then act. He will implement an “open-door policy” under which he will meet with any student for any reason. As President, Zimmy also wants to do everything he can to help students concerned about their futures after law school. He will plan a business-professional event for Fall 2012 called “SPS” (Student Panelist Symposium). The SPS will feature the OCS and a panel of about half a dozen student-volunteers that have succeeded in finding jobs and internships in fields they love. The SPS will give students in attendance a behind-the-scenes look at how fellow students succeeded in the market as explained in their own words. Another goal Zimmy has as SBA President is to lead by example. He will ask that the Senators stay in regular contact with the Student Body and all join at least one Committee. Additionally, Zimmy along with the E-Board will schedule and keep regular office hours. Otherwise, from being at every SBA meeting, to seeking student input on issues, and engaging the Administration at every step along the way, he will listen first, act when it is time, and lead by example. He says that is what students deserve from their SBA President. To learn more about Zimmy’s plans for Seton Hall Law, he encourages the student body to visit his website at [zimforprez.com](http://zimforprez.com).

**Why me:** Zimmy says he is the right choice for President because he has the experience and leadership to solve problems and the forward-looking vision for improvement we will all benefit from. He has the temperament and communication skills needed to work side-by-side with the Administration, be a good quality ambassador for the Seton Hall Law community, and continue to build on the many contacts he already has with our student body and the Seton Hall network to help solve problems. Most importantly, he will dedicate every minute of every day needed to be here in person. He is the right choice for President because he can guarantee that every student will get their due share of representation during my service.

**Fun fact:** Zimmy loves sports and played football, basketball, and soccer.

### Jessica Almeida, 3LE **Undergraduate Education:** University of South Carolina. **Favorite Book:** *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald.

**SHU involvement:** Jessica has served as the SBA Evening Vice-President since 2010, after a year of service as a SBA Senator. Jessica is a student Mentor, and an active member of the Public Interest Network, the St. Thomas More Society, and the Evening Student Forum. Jessica started Family Day, an open house even where students can bring their families to the Law School to allow them to see where they spend all their time. She organized activities for the children, tours for the families, and other events for the student. Jessica has assisted in organizing the Significant Other’s Event, and Pirate Pride Week. She has started numerous initiatives within the Evening Division, including an outline database, a book swap, and a new student guide. She also helped to tailor the Evening Mentor Program by asking the 1LE’s what they needed most from their mentors. She worked with the Office of Career Services and the Office of Alumni Affairs to plan an Evening Student Networking Event at the Law School where Evening Division Alumni gave tips and advice to evening students about their experiences. To learn more about Jessica’s involvement at Seton Hall, students can visit [www.electjess.com](http://www.electjess.com).

**Goals for the Future:** Jessica’s number one goal as SBA President is to be accessible to all students that when an issues arises or when they need an advocate, she is there for them. She wants to assist the administration and faculty in bringing students what they need to be successful in their law careers, whether it is events with Career Services, more mentoring, or more interaction with professionals. In order to find out what students need and want, Jessica plans to circulate a survey to the students all the begging of each semester. She will use that information to develop events and initiative to better address students’ needs. She circulated a similar survey among evening students, which led her to develop many of the programs that have benefited them for the past 3 years.

**Why me:** Jessica says experience, advocacy and vision make her the right candidate. She has the experience from being an active member of the SBA for three years. She is an advocate and she genuinely cares about the students, whether it’s having access to classes, getting something to eat when they arrive at School, having a class taped, or accessing Career Services. She wants everyone to succeed here, and she has a vision as to how this can be



achieved. Jessica says we are a community at Seton Hall Law and the people here will be our peers for the rest of our careers. She has actively searched out opportunities to help students be successful. She has spent three years working for the good of the students and advocating on their behalf. She will continue to be their voice as SBA President.

**Fun fact:** Jessica is the oldest of 31 first cousins.

## VICE PRESIDENT

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### Lauren Keith, 2L

**Undergraduate Education:** Fairfield University.

**Favorite Book:** *Hunger Games*, Suzanna Collins.

**SHU involvement:** Lauren is a SBA Senator, a first-year student Mentor, a Public Interest Network Executive Board member and a UELPI member. **Goals for the Future:** Lauren hopes to find a more effective means of communication between the SBA and the entire student body. She says she hears complaints from students claiming to be in the dark about certain events or deadlines at school too often. She hopes the SBA can strike a balance between finding the proper way of communicating all the opportunities the school has to offer while still not inundating students with information overload. She also would like to get the SBA and student body more involved in community outreach. Many students think the SBA is only in the business of social events, so she wants to dispel that reputation by teaming up with other amazing student organizations to collaborate on activities that Seton Hall cares about the Newark community and all the wonderful opportunities it has to offer. Lastly, she hopes to continue to improve the mentoring program based on student feedback regarding what was most effective and what would use tweaking. Lauren says the mentoring program was such a great personal experience for her when she started at Seton Hall, so she hopes to continue that tradition of excellence for future incoming classes.

**Why me:** Lauren says students who know her know she is extremely approachable and available. She wants everyone to be able to recognize her face around school and know she is there for them. She is assertive and gets things done.

**Fun fact:** If this law school thing doesn't work out, Lauren has a handful of characters lined up for an SNL audition.

### Ariel Risinger, 1LE

**Undergraduate Education:** Smith College.

**Favorite Book:** *My Life in France*, Julia Child.

**SHU involvement:** Ariel has tried to take advantage of many of the student activities Seton Hall Law has to offer. She is a SBA Senator for the Class of 2015, and is on the LRW and Academic Curriculum Committees. Ariel works with the Courtroom Advocates Project, including baking goodies, tabling for "Adopt-A-Family" bake sales, and going to court in New York to assist individuals seeking temporary orders of protection. She has participated in a couple of NJ LEEP events, including the college fair last semester and the recent "Mocktail" reception. Ariel finds the NJ LEEP participants to be truly inspiring. Ariel also volunteers with the Last Resort Exoneration Project, where her 8 years of paralegal experience comes in handy for brief formatting, preparing documents for filing in court, and general file organization.

**Goals for the Future:** Ariel is most interested in the Vice-President position for the responsibility of overseeing the Mentor Program. Without the mentor program, Ariel says she would have been totally lost. She believes it is a great idea to get 1Ls involved with upperclassmen at Orientation and to keep that contact going throughout the year. Ariel would like to see more Mentor events that involve all of the sections of 1Ls, whether it is through arranging a big pizza party or an evening of drink specials at Bello's, because she thinks it is really important to foster relationships between all the divisions.

**Why me:** Ariel says she is the right person for the job because she loves the SHU Law community and has the professional experience to apply to the job of SBA Vice-President. She is incredibly efficient, organized, and most of all, passionate about our school and wants current and future students to feel as welcomed and involved in the wonderful SHU Law community as she does.

**Fun fact:** Ariel has a tattoo of the Garden State. She welcomes students who are interested in learning where her tattoo is located to stop by her table and find out.



## TREASURER-----

**Danny Ljungberg, 2LE****Undergraduate Education:** Kettering University.**Favorite Book:** Freakonomics, Stephen Dubner.

**SHU involvement:** Danny serves as a first-term Senator and participates on the Curricular Committee, Election By-Laws Committee, and Student Organizations Committee. Last year he was a staff writer for *The Cross Examiner*. Danny is no stranger to the work that goes into running student organizations, such as preparing and submitting budgets, as he has co-founded and led two student organizations. Presently he is a member of Evening Student Forum and Brothers in Arms. Danny enjoys participating in APALSA, HROL, and IALSA events; attending Family Day; going to SHU Men's Basketball games; and hanging out at Bello's.

**Goals for the Future:** Danny will improve the transparency of the budget and appeal processes. He believes it is vital to maintain open communication and a strong relationship between student organizations and the SBA. Danny will deliver the budget request forms to student organizations in a timely manner, inform them of when they will have a decision on their request, provide a timely decision, and supply instructions for the appeal process. He will answer questions from student organizations and direct them to the appropriate people as needed. Danny will work to ensure good fiscal responsibility in SBA spending and to ensure that student organizations are allocated the appropriate amount of money to attain their goals. In addition, Danny will use his experience as a student leader to work with the Office of Career Services to improve job prospects and better communicate students' needs. Danny has met with Dean Weinberg to discuss the role of OCS and will continue to do so. Danny promises to advocate on behalf of you and our student organizations.

**Why me:** Danny believes that his experiences as a Senator and student organization leader at Seton Hall Law, Steward and Recruitment Chairman of his college fraternity, and Vice President and Program Manager of J.P.Morgan provide him with a dynamic skills set to serve as SBA Treasurer. While acting as both Steward and Recruitment Chairman, he managed a large portion of his college fraternity's annual budget and succeeded in feeding the entire fraternity and recruiting the largest pledge class in 15 years while coming in under budget by close to 25%. In his six years of working for J.P.Morgan, Danny has designed and implemented budget processes, participated in budget creation and proposals, and tracked that the money spent was within budget. He has the distinction of delivering all projects on time and under budget while still providing the highest quality products to his customers.

**Fun fact:** Danny appeared in the movie Cast Away with Tom Hanks.

**Erik Sardiña, 2L****Undergraduate Education:** Boston College.**Favorite Book:** The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein.

**SHU involvement:** As a 1L, Erik was a member of the Environmental Law Society, worked on the PILF auction, and served as a research assistant to Professor Paula Franzese. In his second year, he served as Treasurer to the Environmental Law Society while also volunteering for the PILF auction and traveling to Tanzania as part of the Winter Intersession Program on Modern Day Slavery. He was also elected to serve as Senior Articles Editor of the Legislative Law Journal, Volume 37.

**Goals for the Future:** Erik hopes to boost the strong reputation that Seton Hall Law alumni-student connections and supporting more networking engenders by strengthening networking opportunities for students. Additionally, Erik intends to provide greater student involvement in the budgeting process by insuring greater transparency while seeking student opinions on expenditures.

**Why Me?:** First, Erik has experience managing substantial budgets. As an undergraduate, Erik organized the Navajo Nation Service & Immersion Trip raising more than \$200,000 over three years to fund educational opportunities and elderly services on the reservation. In addition, each year twenty students traveled to the reservation to build homes and tutor students. After graduation, Erik worked with administrators, physicians, and participants in his role as a patient research coordinator at Washington University School of Medicine while managing a budget of \$400,000 for a study on childhood asthma.

**Fun fact:** Erik hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back in a day.



**Patrick Smith, 2L** **Undergraduate Education:** University of Connecticut. **Favorite Book:** *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck.  
**SHU involvement:** Patrick is a three-term SBA Senator, and he is a Finance Committee member and the LRW Committee Chairman. He is a nominee for the IL Mentor of the Year. Patrick is also the Employment Opportunities Committee Chairman and the Admissions Committee Student Appointee. He also serves as the ESF Vice-President and the IALSA President.

**Goals for the Future:** Patrick's first goal is to increase the SBA budget without costing you, the student, a single dollar. He will push for student organizations to increase fundraising efforts to supplement student organization events. He will also work to increase sponsorships of student organization events by legal research and bar review companies, an approach he used as President of IALSA to save the student body hundreds of dollars on the St. Patrick's Day party. Patrick's second goal is to continue advocating for change in areas where he has spent the last three years representing the SHL student body- continued LRW reform, improved law schools rankings by maintaining admissions credentials, minimal tuition increases, and the continued improvement and outreach of OCS.

**Why Me?:** Patrick says his experience makes him the best candidate. He has spent the last three years fighting for the student body, and in doing so, has gained experience working with the administration to achieve student goals. If elected Treasurer, he will not require any time to learn the ropes or establish relationships. He can begin implementing changes to improve the financial standing of the SBA immediately, while continuing to advocate for issues he has spent the last three years fighting- improved education opportunities, LRW reform, US News rankings, tuition increases, and employment prospects.

**Fun fact:** Patrick is the godson of Tommy Hanely, costar with Marlon Brando in the class film "On the Waterfront." Mr. Hanely is best remembered for his line "a pigeon for a pigeon," said to Mr. Brando's character on a Hoboken rooftop.



**Jennifer Vasquez, 2L** **Undergraduate Education:** Fordham University. **Favorite Book:** *Cien Años de Soledad*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez.  
**SHU involvement:** Jen is a member of Latin American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, and Haiti Rule of Law. She is also a participant in Guatemala Rule of Law.

**Goals for the future:** Jen would like to continue the commitment to excellence that is already engraved within the treasurer position. By adding her unique qualifications and excellent communication skills, Jen will strive to create a climate of inclusion where every student organization and student body member can feel proud of their SBA's efforts. As treasurer, her goal will be to responsibly and transparently disburse SBA funds not only to traditional event, but to also encourage the realistic incorporation of new traditions as well. Her vision is to have an SBA and a treasurer that are a true reflection of our amazing school, its diversity, and its promising future.

**Why me:** Jen says she is a natural communicator, and she is able to facilitate clear and honest conversation with practically anyone she meets and interacts with. She is receptive to people, their opinions, and their beliefs. She is forthcoming and honest, without losing her amicable demeanor. At Fordham University, Jen served as President of the Student Organization of Latinos, was a Senator during her sophomore and junior years, and also sat on the Dean's Advisory Committee as a Student Leader. Moreover, Jen held internships and worked part-time. In order to do all of these activities and do them well, she learned how to be very organized and resourceful. These qualities are engrained in who Jen is, and will translate if she were elected as treasurer.

**Fun fact:** Jen attended the first law-themed high school in the South Bronx.



**Colleen Faherty, 2LE Undergraduate Education:** University of Notre Dame. **Favorite Book:** *Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupery.

**SHU involvement:** Colleen has been a member of the Dispute Resolution Society since September 2010, and she currently serves as the DRS Director of Alumni Relations and Communications and DRS President-elect. She is also a DRS school competitor. Colleen has been an SBA Senator since August 2010, serving as the Community Outreach Committee chair, Technology Committee chair, and Academic and Curriculum Committee member. She is a member of the St. Thomas More Society and is a monthly volunteer at the St. John's soup kitchen. Colleen is a member of the Evening Students Forum and the Women's Law Forum. She was recognized by the NJ Women Layers Association as the Seton Hall university School of Law scholarship recipient. Colleen works as an RA for Professor David White and also works for Legal Computing in the 5th floor computer lab. She is also a participant in the Haiti Rule of Law Dodgeball Tournament, among other activities.

**Goals for the future:** Colleen wants to be the mouthpiece for the evening student body. She will voice growing concerns, as well as transmit information to keep both administration and students aware of the relevant concerns and needs of the evening student community. She also plans to grow support for the mentor program, recognizing the unique needs of the evening students.

**Why me:** Colleen says she is a vested and committed member of the Seton Hall community and is an active evening student. She is approachable, dedicated and not afraid of taking calculated risks aimed at success for the betterment of the student community.

**Fun fact:** Colleen has often been mistaken for Chelsea Clinton. She is also a bona fide Chef, as she went to culinary school and has the framed chef's hat and degree for proof.

The Cross Examiner thanks all the candidates for their time and candidness throughout the interview process. Allison Martin conducted the interviews and Ricky Tracy produced the layout. No candidates were permitted to have any influence in the production of this special edition, and the project's entire substantive completion was limited to the control of the aforementioned contributing staff members. Though many are qualified, **The Cross Examiner** elects not to endorse any candidate for any office in the belief that a better service is done by providing voters with impartial information about each candidate's background, past service and goals for the future. Thank you for reading, and do not forget to vote online.

**The Cross Examiner, Volume III, Issue 7, hits newsstands soon.**

Email any questions or concerns to [TheCrossExaminer@gmail.com](mailto:TheCrossExaminer@gmail.com).