Class of 2019
Student Profiles
Zeineb Abdu
Tukwila, WA

A Tukwila native, I am currently a junior at Foster High School in Tukwila, Washington. My future academic goals are to major in Black Studies and attend business school afterwards. My friends would say that I am independent and resilient when it comes to going after what I want. In my free time, I enjoy reading black literature, visiting museums, watching comedy movies, and going to cafes mainly to appreciate their aesthetics. I am most passionate about studying history and understanding why things are the way they are now. While attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I look forward to understanding the power citizens have in helping make decisions. During the NCLA, I hope to be empowered to be an active citizen who is engaged in the politics of my country. With my newfound empowerment I will seek to inspire those in my community to be active citizens too by sharing what I have learned and leading by example.

Amanda Brown
Bronx, New York

I am a senior at Preston High School in Bronx, New York. I participate in Preston’s chapter of the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society, and serve on the Executive Board for our Student Government Association. In my spare time, I act, sing, and dance. My future academic goals are to major in either psychology or legal studies, attend law school upon the completion of my undergraduate degree, become a law attorney, and eventually become a judge. I am most passionate about teaching my fellow peers the importance of becoming civically engaged in activities such as voting and understanding the rights afforded to them by the American legal system. While attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I am most looking forward to meeting new, equally ambitious peers. I also hope to gain a more thorough understanding regarding the practical implications of studying law.

Ke’van Bradford
Nashville, TN

I am a senior at Whites Creek High School in Nashville, Tennessee. I am a member of our school’s Youth Court. As a sworn officer of the Davidson County Juvenile Court, I work to restore juveniles to their place in the community. I am also a member of our mock trial team where I acted as an attorney this year. I am also a member of our criminal justice team. I plan to attend Austin Peay State University in the fall to study history and government in the hopes of pursuing a career as an attorney. I hope that by attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I am able to learn about the impact I could have on my community through work as an adoption attorney.
Anwar Butler
Philadelphia, PA

I’m from West Philadelphia, born and raised. I am a junior at Constitution High School. I’m aspiring to become a lawyer. There’s something about pleading a case that gets my blood pumping. I like watching TV; specifically Netflix. I am a part of an organization called the Social Justice Leadership Institute. I plan to go to a local college and major in law. Afterwards, I will go to law school. I hope to gain knowledge on the judicial system and of the various types of jobs in it. I want to become a lawyer to provide people that aren’t as wealthy with good representation because everybody deserves justice. I believe the NCLA can guide me on my path to that dream. I also believe that networking is an essential part of life. Meeting with different members or former members of our government will give me the chance to leave a good impression on those with power. I believe that it’s good to have friends in high places. You never know when they may come in handy.

Sofia Dirie
Baltimore, Maryland

I am a Junior at Towson High School, in Towson, Maryland. I am currently enrolled in the Law and Public Policy program at Towson High School, and I love the courses that come along with the program every year. I am most interested in Spanish, history, and law class, of course. I love any class where I can learn about different cultures to deepen my understanding and world view, or any class that pertains to the law and how it applies to the average person in daily life. I am hard working and persistent, when I want something I continue to reach for it until I can attain it. Those are two qualities that I think will make me a very good lawyer, hopefully after I complete law school. I would love to know more about the criminal justice system, because I want to be a criminal defense attorney if I become a lawyer. One thing I am looking forward to during the National Civics and Law academy is meeting people who have experience with the law and legislation, so they can pass their knowledge on to me. I am so honored and elated to participate in this event.

Daylan Garcia Simon
Las Vegas, NV

I am a senior attending West Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was born in the Las Vegas, but and I was raised in Mexico for a good portion of my life. I am academically interested in the field of psychology and criminal justice and I plan on attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the spring. At West, I am in multiple extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, Rotary International’s Interact, our school's student council, and Multicultural Club. I’m passionate about giving back to the community, whether it be in school or out of it. In my spare time, I enjoy doing community service, painting, taking pictures, working out, and doing creative writing. My friends say I’m selfless, which is a major reason why I joined the Nevada National Guard, in hopes to help out anyway I can. During the NCLA, I hope to learn anything I can from my peers and our mentors. More specifically, I want to understand and get a deeper meaning of our government, and the complexities of our judicial system to create a fair, just society, and how to fix some of the problems we have that prevent people from having that right.
Tahmir Hall  
Philadelphia, PA

I am a junior at Constitution High school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Academically, I am most interested in law and engineering. I will be going to Temple University in 2020. My friends would say that I’m a born leader and a very committed person. I would love to learn a lot more about the government and get different perspectives on it. One thing I am looking forward to is getting a new perspective on our government.

Izaas Hatcher-Aviles  
Henrico, VA

I am a junior at Hermitage High School in Henrico, Virginia. I am most interested in studying law and politics in college. I hope to major in political science or history at the University of Virginia or Columbia University in the fall of 2020 and then attend law school afterwards. My goal for after college and law school is to become either a business or civil rights attorney and eventually get into politics. My friends would say that I am soft spoken and passionate about my work. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is expanding my social circle and learning new aspects about the law.

Madison Huddleston  
Jackson, MS

As a sophomore attending William B. Murrah High School, I came to Jackson, Mississippi by way of Beaumont, Texas; I am a native of Detroit. My experience moving across the country has allowed me to familiarize myself with people of all different backgrounds, experiences, and political viewpoints, and gain insight of how our justice system serves its people across different states. To say I have witnessed a steadfast and fair approach to justice across states would be to lie. My participation and competitions within organizations such as the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE jr), and Jackson’s own Better Together Commission have helped me educate myself from peers as well as prominent community leaders, and form my own unique opinion based upon my observations of statistics of people who look like me. More recently, I volunteered at the Mike Espy campaign headquarters during the recent midterm elections. I actively participate in activities that allow me to voice my opinion, such as my school’s mock trial and STEM team, and the National Speech and Debate Association (I am a member of the only team in my school district).

While attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I am looking forward to learning more about different fields in law and gaining more insight into the legislation process, particularly when it comes to healthcare and education. I plan to further my education by majoring in biology and specializing in neuroscience. With the tools I plan to gain while attending the NCLA paired with my career path, it is my goal to use my knowledge for the advancement of marginalized people, and the greater good.
Mariam Khan
Chicago, IL

Growing up in a big city, I have always loved to put myself out there for unique opportunities to learn more about myself. I am a junior attending Mather High School on the North Side of Chicago. I am enrolled in prelaw courses that focus on criminal and civil law. I have been on the cross country and track and field team for 3 years. I enjoy running in new areas with pretty scenery and enjoy being a part of a great team. I also am fond of taking part in mock trials and volunteering as a juror for local universities. Like any other teenager, I hang out with my friends in my free time or watch the latest Netflix shows. I cherish the opportunity to travel, no matter the distance and am a huge fan of gaining perspective in foreign areas. I am most passionate about the criminal justice system and hope to become an active member fighting for justice in needed areas. During the NCLA, I look forward to getting a better outlook on our legal system and hope to bring back knowledge and ideas to my peers and my city.

Chase Lyons
Centennial, CO

A Colorado native, I am currently a junior attending Smoky Hill High School in Centennial, Colorado. I am enrolled in the Education and Law Academy with a focus on the criminal justice system. I participate in our school’s criminal justice programs and multiple leadership roles including sports, unified sports, and DECA. In my spare time, I play football, unified basketball, lacrosse, participate in business events, and volunteer with my peers in National Honors Society. My future academic goals are to major in aerospace engineering and or business law. I am most passionate about encouraging my peers to participate and learn about our criminal justice system and to converse about possible solutions to solidify fairness and morality within all systems of government. I will be looking forward to playing college football and along the way increasing my knowledge for law and passion for restorative justice.

While attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I am most looking forward to learning more about restorative justice and the steps we as society need to take to improve our criminal justice system. During the NCLA, I hope to get multiple perspectives on law and criminal justice and learn valuable information that will increase my wisdom in my future career and duties as an American citizen.
Lia Mimun  
Placentia, CA

I am a junior at El Dorado High School in Placentia, California. Throughout high school I’ve developed a strong interest in history and criminal law, which led me to explore politics and social justice. I serve as the co-president of my school's Political Discourse Club and am actively involved in its top jazz band, choir, marching band, and mock trial team. My friends would probably describe me as outgoing and determined to achieve anything I set out to do. I’m incredibly passionate about gun control and women’s rights, but most importantly, inspiring civil discourse among my generation as America’s political climate becomes increasingly polarized. Because of this, I’m looking forward to gaining a better understanding of diverse political perspectives through the National Civics and Law Academy. In the future, I plan to pursue a career in law.

Jordon Perry  
Miami, FL

Native to Miami Gardens and of Jamaican descent, I am a senior (soon to be alumnus!) of Miami Carol City Senior High School. I enrolled in the Law Magnet of my high school during my freshman year. I participate in our magnet’s student court program, serve as the parliamentarian of the MCC Student Government Association, and serve as the Sergeant at Arms for our National Honor Society chapter, in addition to maintaining my elected position of Class President for all four of my years, and being co-captain of my district championship volleyball team. In my afterschool time, I love to play volleyball, softball, do hair, makeup, and nails. My future academic goals are to major in business with a concentration in management (so I can run and own an all-inclusive salon), and minor in criminology to become a crime scene Investigator.

I am most passionate in attempting to motivate our youth to choose the right paths -whether it be technical school, a college/university, or entrepreneurship- and not fall victim to our surroundings, as well as understanding the importance of an education. I also want to encourage my peers to know their ethnic history within the civil and criminal justice systems and understand their way through the system, not around it. When attending the National Civics and Law Academy, I am most looking forward to being exposed to different legal careers. During the NCLA, I hope to gain a more thorough understanding of the judicial system and the legal implications of practicing law. As an aspiring crime scene investigator, and/or cosmetologist/ esthetician, I would like to provide the wonders of beauty to the people of our community all whilst assisting in solving the ugly crimes they see around them.
Tanner Randall
Norman, OK

I am a senior at Norman North High School in Norman, Oklahoma. Next fall I will attend Dartmouth College and plan to major in biochemistry or political science. NCLA will provide me with the opportunity to explore my interest in being a public servant for my future career. I am a citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation and I am proud to represent my people through the opportunity that NLCA has provided me. During the school year I am a part of the Norman North Soccer team, Key Club, and National Honors Society. Outside of school, I enjoy doting on my Great Dane, Charlie and spending time with family and friends.

Lisa Rios-Corral
Waco, TX

I am a Junior at University High School in Waco, TX. Academically, I am most interested in law, criminal justice, history, and politics. I am currently a Junior Ambassador in the academy of Law and Criminal Justice at my school. I have participated in the Junior Police Academy hosted by the Waco Police Department. In school, I’m in the JROTC (Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps) that teaches regular students as myself, important leadership skills that can be used in the future. In JROTC I am currently the commander and have been the commander for two years of the unarmed team, I have also won individual medals at Drill meets that we compete at every year against more than 20-30 schools. After high school, I plan on joining the Navy while furthering my education in criminal justice. This will help me pursue my dream jobs of either working with the DEA, working with the ATF as a dog handler, or becoming an immigration lawyer. In my spare time I like to hang out with my family and friends.

I am most passionate about helping my peers understand the importance of youth’s role in politics and how important it is to vote and how women have the ability to take on leadership roles and be successful while doing so. I am most looking forward to learning more about how our legal system works and what we can do as a nation to better our system. I also look forward to meeting so many important men and women from different backgrounds and learning how they got to be where they are now. I hope to leave NCLA with more knowledge of our judicial systems and how young women like me CAN make an impact and CAN be successful in anything we put our minds to.
Luis Sanchez
Anaheim, CA

I am a junior attending Katella High School in Anaheim, California. I spend a majority of my time on campus focusing on academics or extra curriculars, however when time permits, I spend my spare time volunteering, running, eating ice cream, or viewing installations at art museums. My future academic goals are to major in education and teach a rigorous history course. Being in Southern California, I am immersed in Hispanic heritage and I am passionate about learning the role law plays in immigration issues. During the National Civics and Law Academy, I look forward to gaining insight from current or former congressmen on a variety of current issues.

Brandon Thompson
Chicago, IL

I am a junior from Christian Fenger Academy High School. I am mostly interested in business, finance, and public service. I am enrolled in a tutoring program, Men of Color in Education. I participate monthly going to a People Gas facility in Chicago, and learn about the things I need to be successful in corporate internships. I'm driven to keeping my grades above average. I am passionate about wrestling and have wrestled for three years earning numerous 1st place medals at state competitions. I hope to have a great week at the ABA National Civics and Law academy!

Ty'Shawnda Walker
New Castle, DE

I am a proud Howard High School of Technology Wildcat. I am a senior at Howard located in Wilmington, Delaware. I am in the Legal Administrative Assisting program which preps me in multiple types of law. The program includes a mix of civil and criminal law. I participate in student council going on four years now. I have been a part of the college access program and I have participated in the L. Redding Gala. For four years, I have participated in mock trial and I have been a part of the Youth Congress for Delaware. I have a strong passion for law and I've known I wanted to be a lawyer since I was in the 6th grade. I plan on becoming a criminal defense attorney or even a magistrate. In the meantime, my great abilities involve: painting, writing poems, drawing, fashion designing, and public speaking. I plan on going to either Delaware State University or Golden-Beacom College, majoring in criminal justice, in the fall.

While I am attending National Civics and Law Academy I am looking forward to extending my learning experience in law and also applying what I learn from this experience to my future. I would like to learn more about criminal law and different departments I could be a part of in criminal law. I would like to take all the information from this great opportunity and apply it to my future to become a great defense attorney.
Abigail Ward  
Wadesboro, NC.

Hello! My name is Abby. I am currently a junior at Anson County Early College in North Carolina. I am a member of the National Honors Society at my school, we coordinate many school activities and fundraisers such as working with local organizations like the Anson Crisis Ministry. At school I enjoy history and English class as well as psychology. I work at a local ice cream shop called Peaches n’ Cream. In my free time, I enjoy soccer, baton, and art. I also frequently volunteer within my community through the Partnership for Children. I am looking forward to learning more about my government and ways teens like me can make an impact. In the future, I aspire to be a member of congress like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez because she is a strong woman who is making her voice heard. I would like to be a spokesperson for the common people. Going to Washington, D.C. gives me the opportunity to personally experience the environment in which some of the biggest political decisions are made. This will give me a different perspective of the political world, as well as a better understanding of the way it works. Going will only motivate me more to accomplish my goal; therefore, this trip is significantly beneficial to my journey towards becoming a congresswoman.

Kyle Young  
Hays, MT

I am a Native American from Ft. Belknap Reservation and a senior attending Hays/Lodge Pole High school in Montana. I am participating in our student council as a 12th grade representative. In my spare time I play basketball and work at Island Mountain Development Group. My future academic goals are to major in civil engineering at Montana State University. While attending National Civics and Law Academy, I am most looking forward to meeting new people, making new friends, and seeing Washington D.C. for the first time. During the NLCA, I hope to gain a better understanding of what goes on in day-to-day life working in Washington D.C.