Class of 2016
Student Profiles

ABA Division for Public Education
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Osvaldo Aguilar
Santa Ana, California

My name is Osvaldo Aguilar and I am currently a junior at Santa Ana Valley High School in Santa Ana, California. First and foremost, I want to thank you for allowing me to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. I personally have always been interested in history; however, I am somewhat undecided when it comes to my major. I am leaning towards a career in the STEM field. I consider myself to be a perfectionist when it comes to completing any given task, and I often find myself leading groups when assigned to them. My main interest in modern American politics is the process in which an idea turns into legislation. One of the main aspects that interests me the most about the National Civics and Law Academy is the opportunity to travel to my country’s capital for the first time and witness the government that plays a large role in my community at work.

Alea Bond
Wilmington, Delaware

I am a senior at Howard High School of Technology in Wilmington, Delaware. I am taking a class in legal administrative assisting at my high school which has greatly enhanced my knowledge of law. Upon graduation I will be a certified legal assistant. In the fall of 2016 I will be attending Wesley College and I plan on majoring in criminal justice. I am extremely passionate about the betterment of society and community service. It is with great enthusiasm I look forward to learning new skills from the National Civics and Law Academy and incorporating them to make change in my community.

Kevin Botros
Nashville, Tennessee

My name is Kevin. I am seventeen years old and I am originally from Egypt, but I have been living in the U.S. for seven years now. I am a junior at McGavock High School in Nashville, Tennessee and I am also a member of the Mayor’s Youth Council. I’m interested in law and politics as I want to pursue careers in both (I want to become a lawyer first). I want to go to Vanderbilt University. I’m a nice person and I am very optimistic about my future. I love sports like basketball, football, and soccer. I’m most passionate about youth involvement and community issues. I would like to learn more about public policies and law. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is learning about law, civics, and visiting historic sites.
Alexander Bracy  
Westminster, Maryland

I attend Francis Scott Key High School in Westminster, Maryland where I am on the wrestling and tennis teams. Through the Eagle Scouts I have been involved in restoration projects for Carroll County to restore wetlands, outdoor classrooms, and Carroll County’s Historic Farm Museum. I have a certification in homeland security and emergency preparedness from Carroll County Career and Technology Institute. I plan on attending University of Maryland at College Park and majoring in business and law studies. My long-term goals include first serving as a Surface Warfare Officer for the U.S. Navy before continuing my education with either a master's degree in business or attending law school for international affairs. I am looking forward to learning more about international law, homeland security, and business law during the National Civics and Law Academy.

Justin Clark  
New Orleans, Louisiana

I am a senior at KIPP Renaissance High School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Academically, I am most interested in criminal justice and political science. In the fall, I will be attending Morehouse College. My friends would say that I am dedicated and hardworking. I would like to learn about how our nation’s judicial branch operates. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is a deeper understanding of what lawyers do on a day-to-day basis.

Serena Cuts The Rope  
Hays, Montana

I am a junior at Dodson High School in Dodson, Montana. Academically, I am most interested in literature, government, and the medical field. I will be going to the Aaniiih Nakoda College at Fort Belknap Indian Community, Montana after I graduate from high school. My friends would say that I am independent and my family would say that I am determined and ambitious. I am passionate about poetry and social change. I would like to learn more about the relationship between the federal government and Indian nations. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is experiencing what it’s like to work in politics and seeing our government in action.
Krystina Derby
Miami, Florida

I am a senior at Miami Carol City Senior High School in Miami Gardens, Florida. Academically, I am interested in African American history. I will be going to the University of Florida in Gainesville this summer. My friends would say that I am artistic and creative. I am passionate about the arts and activism. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is the exposure I will gain from this experience.

Helena DeVone
Atlanta, Georgia

I am a senior at D.M. Therrell High School in Atlanta, Georgia. I consider myself to be goofy and outgoing. I am very interested in law and business because I know both of these disciplines will benefit me in my future endeavors. I hope to attend Howard University in the fall, majoring in both business marketing and mass communication. My long-term goal is to help the underserved youth of the inner cities by working to change the structural development of those struggling in the lower socioeconomic class, and by demonstrating how to make the most of their circumstances through mentorship and curriculum. One thing I am looking forward to at the National Civics and Law Academy is learning what our government officials are REALLY doing in office.

Tia Floyd
Jackson, Mississippi

I am a senior at Murrah High School High School in Jackson, Mississippi. Academically, I am most interested in political science and public policy. I will be going to the University of Mississippi at Oxford in the fall. My friends would say that I am goal-oriented. I would like to learn more about public policy and the law field in general. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is being able to communicate and be inspired by other lawyers about the particular field that I will be going into.
Isabel Lafky  
Seattle, Washington

I am a junior at Chief Seattle International High School in Seattle, Washington. I am a full International Baccalaureate student, and I am on my school’s Mock Trial and Model UN teams. My main academic interests are civics, ethics, and literature. I hope to work as either a human rights or constitutional law attorney. I am passionate about efforts to change the achievement gap within American public schools, as well as international environmental policy. One thing I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is learning more about the country’s governmental systems.

William Lanzilotti  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

I am a senior at Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Academically, I am interested in law and economics. I will be going to Widener University in the fall. My friends would say I am very outgoing because I always strive to do my best at everything. I am most passionate about my role as the president of the student government association. I want to be the most effective president as possible. One thing I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is the Supreme Court seminar and tour because I aspire to be a judge, possibly serving on the Supreme Court someday.

Vianey Martinez  
Santa Ana, California

My name is Vianey Martinez and I am currently a junior at Santa Ana Valley High School. I am interested in immigration policies along with social, economic, and political equality. I have been taking interest in New York University and I hope to apply in the fall. Being the captain of the varsity cross country team at my school has taught me to encourage others to exceed their own expectations. I am passionate about how social factors (race, class, religion, gender, etc.) contribute to political tensions when it comes to reform. I am looking forward to have the National Civics and Law Academy expand my knowledge on how to continue being an informed resident of the country and how to recognize the limits that basic rights have. I also hope that being exposed to a new environment will open my mind to different options when it comes to applying to different universities.
Tamah Minnis
Norman, Oklahoma

I am a senior at Norman High School in Norman, Oklahoma. I plan to double major in journalism and Native American studies and minor in English at the University of Oklahoma. My friends would say that I am hardworking, outgoing, and driven. My passions lie in Native American rights, poverty, and education. Living in Oklahoma, Native Americans make up almost 9% of the population, however, Native Americans within our state face poverty and culture loss. The relationship between the United States government and tribal governments fascinates me. Through this National Civics and Law Academy, I desire to learn how to be an active citizen in my society, furthering Native American rights. Being a Meskwaki Native, and a fifth generation Oklahoman, I have always known that I wanted to study Native American rights. With the University of Oklahoma President Boren’s creation of the Native Nations center, and his refocus on the importance of Native American studies, it seems the ideal time to pursue my J.D. in tribal law.

Diego J. Salazar
Waco, Texas

I am a junior at University High School in Waco, Texas. Academically, I am most interested in law and law enforcement. Beginning in the fall of 2017, I plan on attending Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where I will major in criminal justice. Currently, I am a member of my school’s mock trial team and I am a part of my school’s student court program. I am a sergeant in Waco’s award winning Police Explorer Post 415 as well as a graduate of the Junior Police Academy for the Waco Police Department. In 2015, I became a recipient of the President’s Volunteer Award for my community service and I am vice-president of the junior class. My friends would say that I am responsible and dependable. I am most passionate about domestic issues such as gun control, crime control, drug prevention, and civil rights. One of the things I am looking forward to about attending the National Civics and Law Academy is meeting members of Congress and their staff.
Hope Shearer
Fruitland, Maryland

I am a sophomore at James M. Bennett High School in Salisbury, Maryland. Academically, I am most interested in science, foreign language, and medicine. I have no certain college plans yet, but I hope to play lacrosse while studying in the medical field. I spend my free time reading, playing lacrosse, or spending time with my friends. My friends and family often describe me as affable, trustworthy, and proactive. I’m most looking forward to all the tours on our itinerary and meeting new people at the National Civics and Law Academy.

Clerance "CJ" Smith
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

I am a senior at Philadelphia Electrical & Technology Charter High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Academically, I am most interested in biology. I will be attending Temple University in the fall. My friends would say that I am quiet at first, but I won’t shut up when I am comfortable. I am most passionate about the health field and helping the less fortunate. One of the things I am looking forward to about the National Civics and Law Academy is interacting with others who have the same passionate mindset as myself.

Marisol Torres
Kankakee, Illinois

My name is Marisol Torres. I am a junior at Kankakee High School in Kankakee, Illinois. Academically I am most interested in Law and the Military Service. I am still in the process of researching colleges. My friends would say that I am a funny outgoing person. I am most passionate about serving in the Army and working towards becoming a Lawyer. One of the things I am looking forward to about The National Civics and Law Academy is the different experiences that I will be exposed to.