

**FACULTY OF LAW  
STUDENTS ON LAW COMMITTEES – ELECTIONS 2010**

**LAW FACULTY BOARD  
STUDENT STATEMENTS**

**Nicholas Bird**

I am a fourth year Arts/Law student, having studied here full time since 2006.

As an undergraduate representative of the faculty board, I hope to be a competent, effective and passionate voice for students, keen to gauge students' concerns and maintain an open mind to all suggestions.

I believe that I am qualified for the position as I have participated extensively in university life. For two years, I was a member of the executive of the Monash Choral Society, including one year as Treasurer. I have also been on the executive of the Monash International Law Association for the last two years. The experience has shown me the importance of teamwork, cooperation and consensus-building. I have also learnt a great deal about the need to balance student desires with practical realities.

I have also been involved in the law faculty's Ambassador Program, which has provided me with insight into how to improve the overall student experience.

As a member of the faculty board, I offer experience and dedication. I promise to carefully assess the views and concerns of students and represent their interests forcefully.

I would be very grateful for your trust and confidence!

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**Stuart Butterworth**

Student representatives on the Monash Law Faculty Board have great potential to influence the key decision making body in the Monash Law Faculty, and therefore should act as strong advocates on the key decisions which shape the experience of Monash law students.

I want to see a Monash Bachelor of Laws that is more than competitive not just against others in Melbourne, but throughout the world. It is acknowledged that it's more difficult for Monash students to apply to prestigious universities or land the top jobs. Monash students are less likely to achieve HDs or be given Honours qualifications than other students at Victorian universities. This is a situation that doesn't help any of us.

I believe in working with the faculty board effectively, ensuring that students' views are heard and respected, to make sure that the degree that we're all going to get will give us the qualifications to get wherever we want to go.

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## Michael Chapman

After nearly seven years in three universities as an undergraduate student, I can bring experience and perspective if elected as a student member of the Law Faculty Board. I have been around long enough to know that not all undergraduate courses are created equal. The most successful keep in touch with the student body, consider student opinions and act on student initiatives. This depends on having student representatives who can effectively convey the student voice, engage in the decision-making process and hold the faculty accountable for its decisions. I believe I have the experience, conviction and judgement to undertake this role.

I am not affiliated with either the Monash LSS or ILA and can offer unaligned representation to all undergraduate law students. A particular concern of undergraduates is the role of the law faculty in identifying and establishing career and practical legal training opportunities. I have worked for two years as a paralegal in a specialist law firm and will use this experience in representing student concerns on this issue. I have also studied law on exchange to Denmark for one year. This experience demonstrated what is good about the Monash LLB's syllabus, teaching quality and student focus. It also demonstrated what could be improved. With the benefit of these experiences, and a commitment to consult widely with all members of undergraduate student body, I seek your support in my nomination and election to the Law Faculty Board.

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## Nicola Giarratana

A successful leader is one who acts as a beacon of direction and guidance, who is inclusive rather than exclusive and most importantly, someone who has the ability to listen. *I can do this.* Voting for me will ensure your voices are heard and your expectations are put forward on the path to becoming a reality. I advocate positive and dynamic representation of your needs and interests.

A second year Arts/Law student, I have had extensive experience within the student community. I am a member of various law related and university wide clubs. I therefore have the ability to engage with various student populations and acknowledge their expectations.

In my role as a 2009 Law School Ambassador I have and will continue to communicate with people in positions of authority yet still remain well grounded in the student cohort. I will act as an effective point of contact and instigator of change between you and the Faculty.

Completing a major in Chinese, having done voluntary work with Sudanese people and having been involved in community organisations such as Toastmasters International, I have a strong social conscience allowing me to foster the Faculty's sense of student community.

Time at university should be a period which is enjoyed and maximised. However, student needs are often quashed behind the veil of academia, authority and administration. I aim to build an inclusive, robust student culture where your voice will be heard and channelled into the decision makers of this Faculty.

Vote #1 Nicola Giarratana

## **Margaret Neav**

I am studying Arts/Law and I am a 2009 Law School Ambassador. I started law in 2007 and next year will be my final year at Monash. I am running for a position on the Board because over the years of studying law these are some of the changes I'd like to see happen:

1. One Week Swot Vac.
2. Exams Spread Over 4 Weeks- as a law student I have found that even though there is a 4 week exam period all my exams seem to be over by the first week of exams so having exams spread out would help ease the stress that can come with exams.
3. Semester 2 Mid-Semester in week 6 not at the end week 10.
4. Better facilities for all students such as more power points in lecture theatres for laptop use.
5. Lectures to not be timetabled in the old science lecture theatres-for those of us who have classes there I'm sure will agree with me that having classes there for up to 3 hours straight isn't the best learning environment compared to where a lot of law lectures are held such as Menzies & Rotunda.

To see these changes happen next year please make sure you vote 1 for me MARGARET NEAV on the Faculty Board to represent the student interests in the law school and look at new initiatives, programs and projects that will help us all make the most of our experience as students in the law school.

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## **Mark Schultz**

I served as the Student Representative on the Law Faculty Board in 2009. I'm running for re-election to the Board and need your help to ensure that the strong, effective and responsible leadership I have provided this year can continue into the future!

The position of Student Representative provides a vital platform for students to bring important issues to the attention of the faculty. Therefore it is essential that the undergraduates elected are heavily involved in the life of the Law School and understand the issues facing Law Students today.

I offer that experience, involvement and understanding.

I am presently in the fourth year of an Arts/Law degree and have been deeply involved with the Law Faculty throughout my time at Monash. I am well aware of the specific needs of Law Students at Monash, having run for LSS President and spent a year shaping the future of undergraduate Law programs at Monash through my seat on the Board.

Furthermore, I am well placed to give effect to the interests of students. My knowledge and understanding of what Law students really need has been complimented by my tenure on the Board. That experience has equipped me with an in-depth understanding of the faculty and its administration, placing me in an unparalleled position to make a difference for you!

So, if you want to vote for a representative who understands your needs and can get the job done:

Vote #1 Mark Schultz.

**Rachel Yap**

I am running for the Undergraduate student position to the Law Faculty Board 2010. As an active member of the law faculty, my aim is to assist the Council or Academic Board on all matters of interest regarding law students. I believe I would give an unwavering commitment to my position, in addition give an insightful opinion and provide relevant information of concern from the law faculty.

As a current undergraduate student, I am in touch with the needs of law students and will do everything possible to assist the Council or Academic Board in supervising the course of study and where necessary, and in the most respectful of ways, recommend any changes or additions which would provide beneficial to the law faculty.

I believe I am a team player and will work tirelessly and cooperatively with members of the Board, from the respective faculties, both assisting them where necessary and respecting their opinions and recommendations. I am a patient and outgoing person, who maintains a positive and open-minded attitude to all tasks given to me and aim at improving and assisting the quality of the university teaching and resources available to Monash students.

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