

The first nursery rhyme my mother learned while in Soviet Russia can be translated as “Yid, Yid, Yid, jumping the rope.” She ran home from preschool that day to tell her parents what she had learned. At the tender age of three, her mother explained to her that the song was a microcosm of the discrimination Jews faced in the Soviet Union.

For as long as I can remember, my parents taught me that no matter how much I try to conform to secular standards, I will always be a Jew. It does not matter how I dress, what I eat, or with whom I associate, our enemies would easily be able to identify me. They explained to me that governments are useful vessels for corruption, greed, and systemic oppression. In the USSR, the notion of innocent until proven guilty did not exist. Free speech was not protected, the police were militant extensions of an already untrustworthy government, and the concept of liberty as I understood it did not apply.

I plan on going into constitutional law because I want to fight for our inalienable rights and make sure that the next generation of Americans can be proud of their republic. For the last four years, I have worked at Young Americans for Liberty in several different capacities. First as a State Chair then as a Deputy Regional Director and now as a writer in the Communications Department, I have had the unique opportunity to directly affect change. Working with our Director of Free Speech as well as several of my chapter members, I have successfully forced 6 universities to rescind their unconstitutional free speech policies, thereby restoring freedom of speech for millions of Americans. Being a part of a movement so much bigger than myself has inspired me to attend law school and dedicate my professional career to defending property rights, the assumption of innocence, free expression, and equality under the law.

Universities used to be bastions of civil discourse and the free exchange of ideas but nowadays, students are censored for their unpopular viewpoints. My parents escaped a country

that penalized dissenting views and I intend on being a constitutional lawyer so I can help prevent tyranny from destroying our country.

As a child, I faced anti-Semitism, belittlement, and bullying. It would therefore be easy for me to conclude that “hate speech” should be banned. As I’ve embarked on my political journey, however, I cannot say that I resonate with such a viewpoint. We cannot simply ban speech, no matter how inappropriate it may be. By placing limits on speech, we’re actually engaging in a form of thought control, forcing people to accept a reality they do not believe in. Without freedom of speech, moral ills like slavery would never been abrogated because the prerequisite conversations would have been illegal. Instead of using the courts or the legislative process to outlaw opinions, we should focus on education and civil discourse. Having a person come to the realization that she is wrong is a lot more powerful than using force.

I want to go into constitutional law because I have a nuanced approach to so many issues. I have never completely aligned with any one political philosophy but I think that will actually give me a competitive edge, fostering my ability to analyze the Constitution without any political biases. Especially nowadays, it seems like both sides are using the Constitution to push their own agenda. The political right believes that abortion should be federally outlawed even though that’s unconstitutional and the left believes that abortion should be federally legalized, which is also unconstitutional. The 10th Amendment gives all powers not expressly granted to the federal government to the states and the people. This means that abortion is a states’ rights issue. As a constitutional lawyer, I hope to correct people’s negative opinions on the Constitution and show them that the system of government that we have in the U.S. truly is the best one out there.

What I hope to contribute to the legal field is a new way of looking at the Constitution. My generation sees the Constitution as this archaic and foreign document, not the safeguard

against corruption that it is. I hope to be a voice for freedom, liberty, and individualism. Being a constitutionalist is frowned upon nowadays but I seek to pave the way for other young voices to come forward. The popular perceptions of court cases such as Roe v. Wade or issues like free speech are usually rooted in opinion rather than a deep constitutional analysis. Being morally opposed to an act is completely separate from that act being a crime. I will positively impact my community by standing up for issues that other people are too afraid to speak about. There are millions of Americans who believe in complete freedom of speech, the assumption of innocence, and federalism but are afraid of the ostracization they'll face for speaking up. I am not afraid to stand for these principles. I will call out injustice anywhere I see it, whether it comes from Republicans, Democrats, or Independents. I do have an originalist philosophy but I also respect the fact that a judge's sole purpose is to analyze the Constitution, not bring forward a political philosophy. I am looking to learn, admit when I'm wrong, and become a better version of myself. I will positively impact my community by not only protecting the principles enshrined in our Constitution but also working on myself, personally and professionally, to be the best advocate possible.