



June 24, 2021

ILYA SHAPIRO
Vice President & Director
ROBERT A. LEVY CENTER FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

Dear NCFCA Finalists,

I apologize that I'm unable to be there in person to congratulate you for your hard work and determination. It's an honor to be invited to speak with so many bright young men and women as you debate important legal issues. I hope the experience helps you in choosing whether to pursue a career in the law.

Indeed, the rhetorical and reasoning skills you cultivate through debate will serve you well as future advocates and communicators in whatever professional field you pursue. I've been in law and public policy long enough to tell you that we need more young, passionate voices engaged in public affairs. As you go through college, I hope you continue to use your talents and drive to champion the causes that move you. I'm encouraged that so many students are participating in your competition this year and am rooting for each of you—in all your future endeavors.

And as you go about exploring your intellectual and professional aspirations, please feel free to be in touch with the Cato Institute's Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies. My colleagues and I would be happy to guide your studies and thinking.

You should all be proud for making it to this final stage. Take a moment to enjoy it, then roll up your sleeves and get to work! I wish you all the best of luck.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilya Shapiro", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ilya Shapiro