

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
March 31, 2019 8:00 pm

Name	Benjamin Lees
Address	<div></div> <div></div>
Phone	<div></div>
Email	<div></div>
Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.
Statement of Interest	<p>I am a third-year student at Boston College Law School. I have studied the law of speech and religion under Professor Kent Greenfield, and his book "Corporations Are People Too: (And They Should Act Like It)" has informed my thinking on the subject of corporate personhood. I have also done clinical work on behalf of students and prison inmates, and I hope to do public-interest work after graduation.</p> <p>While I share the view that Citizens United was wrongly decided, I see the problem with the Supreme Court's jurisprudence in the area of campaign finance laws as going back to Buckley v. Valeo in 1976. That case is the real villain in preventing the government from reasonably regulating expenditures in elections, whether by corporations or by wealthy individuals.</p> <p>In crafting a solution to the problems surrounding corporate personhood, I believe it is important that we ensure that corporations, which include non-profits and religious organizations, are not left vulnerable to ideological discrimination by the government. To take one example, imagine what some states might do if given free rein to target Planned Parenthood.</p> <p>Additionally, since the rights of natural persons have in many cases been expanded by corporate entities-from the NAACP to the New York Times-we must ensure that the people retain practical ways of vindicating their individual rights.</p>
Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/490153076/71887710_citizens_united_commission_resume.pdf

Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
Clty or Town where you reside	LEXINGTON
Employment Status	Unemployed

Benjamin Lees

EDUCATION

Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
Candidate for Juris Doctor, May 2019

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in Classics, December 2012
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, 2011
 William M. Bulger Classics Award, 2011
Activities: UMass Democrats, 2010–2012
 Student Government Association, Senator, 2010–2011

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Boston College Prison Disciplinary Hearings Clinic, Newton, MA
Clinical Intern

Spring 2019

- Consulted with client inmates in prisons, handled discovery, and prepared arguments
- Represented client inmates before a hearing officer for disciplinary offenses
- Submitted written appeals as necessary

Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Woburn, MA

Legal Intern, Appeals Unit

Summer 2018

- Independently researched and wrote briefs for filing with the Massachusetts Appeals Court
- Prepared summaries of recent appellate decisions for office-wide distribution
- Participated in trainings, mock trials, and site visits

Boston College Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project, Newton, MA

Clinical Intern

Spring 2018

- Served as court-appointed guardian *ad litem* for children with school refusal problems
- Provided legal assistance to a student in dealing with a school disciplinary matter
- Learned about state and federal juvenile and education law

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Wikipedia Editor

August 2006 – present

- Edited and expanded the world's largest free encyclopedia
- Counteracted vandalism and trolling
- Handled feedback from the public regarding encyclopedia entries