My name is Justin Nilsen.  I’m a third-year Computer Science student here at UCSB.  Like many of you, my goal is to enter public service one day.  Computer Science isn’t an obvious route for that, but I’m interested in it for the same reason I’m interested in Judicial Council and student government: I love trying to understand how things work.  They’re both aimed at coming up with efficient solutions for large-scale problems and ensuring that everyone who interacts with them has an experience that improves their lives.  And most importantly, you ensure fairness in your program and make sure no-one’s abusing it or using it to discriminate or spew hate.

On Judicial Council, I’d like help Associated Students in that mission.

I’ve been involved in student government both in high school and here at UCSB as Solicitor General last year.  I did mock trial my Freshman year of college, which gave me a chance to practice leadership and critical thinking with some of the brightest people I’ve met.  In high school I was a youth court advocate; I helped juvenile defendants in diversionary courts make their case to a panel to get minor crimes and infractions expunged from their record in exchange for contrition and appropriate remedies.  I still volunteer for this program and help train other advocates.  It’s a great exercise in empathy and justice; it’s taught me the importance of perspective when administering justice.

On Judicial Council, we’re going to make tough decisions.  I promise to do my part to be understanding and sympathetic to all sides and to enforce legal code as fairly as possible.  And to that end, my door is always open.  If you have any questions or just want to chat, I’d love to get to know you.