

Steven K. Jambois
Allen N. Schwartz
Craig P. Mannarino
Michael S. Shinsky
Laurie A. Niego
Amanda L. Brasfield
Timothy J. Ashe
Jeffrey C. Schwartz
Paul D. Richter
John S. Fotopoulos
Kristina K. Green
Jacqueline Brody Kanter
Kristin Barnette McCarthy



SCHWARTZ | JAMBOIS
Attorneys at Law

Goodman Theatre Building
60 West Randolph Street, 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 782-2525 | Fax (312) 855-0068
www.schwartzjambois.com

Eva E. Golabek
Erin R. Doyle
Caitlin K. Finnegan
David A. Brody
Olivia N. Schwartz
Kelly M. Barrett
Colin T. Henry
Micah T. Reeves
Michael F. Sullivan
Bryan S. Jambois
Adam Snyder
Joseph L. Rourke
Mac Hertz

Of Counsel
Hon. William D. Maddux (Ret.)
Hon. Michael J. Burke (Ret.)
Hon. David M. Carlson (Ret.)

July 16, 2025
Via Electronic Mail: troy.mccourt@us.af.mil
Re: Dejah Cobbs

Dear Board Members:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dejah Cobbs. I'm an attorney at a personal injury law firm in Chicago, and I was assigned to be her mentor as she started her sophomore year of high school at Legal Prep High School. This program was facilitated through her high school, with attorneys in the Chicagoland area volunteering to assist. We have maintained this mentor/mentee relationship over the last ten years, and I have grown to know Dejah like family. Throughout the formal mentorship program, I participated in group events, networking events, and school functions alongside Dejah. After her high school career and the formal mentorship program ended, we continued (and continue) our regular meetings, discussing her future goals and steps in reaching them.

Dejah has a drive that is unmatched, and it truly is an inspiration to those around her. Over the last several years, I have never seen her give up and I have never seen her fall short of something she puts her mind to. I didn't know this type of drive was possible before meeting Dejah. Whether it was excelling in her academic courses, her leadership position at the African American Cultural Center, or her study-abroad opportunities focused on diversity and inclusion, Dejah is going to give it her all. She succeeded in becoming her high school's valedictorian while taking on many leadership roles in various clubs and groups, and working full time to support herself. What's most amazing about her, however, is that she will do all of this with a contagious energy and big smile across her face. Atop all of the accolades on her resume, her stellar grades, and her high ambitions, she manages to be a person that people love to be around.

She has never let her tougher-than-most upbringing hold her back. The closer I get to her, the more I get a glimpse into some of the struggles she has grown up with. It is remarkable that someone can still face the world with such optimism and strength, but that's Dejah. She has never been one to make excuses. Each and every time there is a setback, she is the one who pushes herself through it. And she always comes out on top. Dejah adapts quickly, she is a quick learner, innovative thinker, and her work ethic is unmatched. I give my strongest recommendations for Dejah, and I wholeheartedly believe that she will be an asset to the U.S. Air Force. I am confident that she will make you proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Olivia N. Schwartz'.

Olivia N. Schwartz
oschwartz@sj-lawgroup.com
312-202-3438



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Attorneys at Law