



In tonight's live finale, **The Donald** will consider your vote in choosing between Sean Yazbeck, left, 34, of London and Lee Bienstock, 23, of Lawrence, with Ivanka Trump.

A Long Island apprentice?

Smart, young, driven: Lee Bienstock wants your vote tonight

BY CAREY KING
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If you have yet to cast your online ballot for 23-year-old "Apprentice" finalist Lee Bienstock, you'd better do it soon — and do it before you run into his mother.

Bienstock, you see, is a hometown boy. His family — including parents Mark and Flora, and brothers Daniel, 20, and Solomon, 17 — moved from Brooklyn to Lawrence seven years ago. Ever since they found out during last week's episode that Lee will be one of two competitors on tonight's season finale, the Bienstocks — plus friends from their Orthodox synagogue and Lee's former Hebrew Academy high school — have been on a Lee campaign.

"Vote for Lee. At least 20 times each," Flora has been telling co-workers and people she meets in the grocery store. "I voted on both my personal and my office e-mail."

The hour-and-a-half special will air live from Los Angeles on NBC / 4 at 9:30 p.m. Fans can cast up to 20 votes each by text message or e-mail on www.nbc.com until 11 p.m., when **The Donald** will take poll numbers into account while making his final choice between Lee and London native Sean Yazbeck, 34.

Though Lee is bound by NBC to not talk to the press until after the finale airs, his family said they planned to fly to California for the show, where they'll be joined by

young age — he deserves to win.

"There are two sides to Lee," said Sam Beck, a professor at Cornell University, where Lee graduated with a 4.0 grade point average in May 2005. "One is to make a whole lot of money, and the other is to do good."

He's smart, they say — he interned with Merrill Lynch, then took a job after college as an analyst with Accenture, a global management consulting firm. And he's driven — high-school friend and college roommate Adam Enbar says he never saw Lee sleep the night before an assignment was due because "there was always something, some de-

tail, that could be more perfect."

What most makes Lee stand out above the rest, they agree, is his dedication to principles and loyalty to friends. Rabbi Kenneth Hain of Lawrence's Congregation Beth Shalom recently made Lee the focus of a sermon after a show episode in which Lee — despite boardroom tension — refused to talk badly about his competitors.

While some reality-show contestants may be "sneaky and backstabbing," says college friend Simone Greenbaum, "Lee's not like that. If you become one of his closest friends, you'll be his friend for life."

Out on top: They got the job

Should Lee Bienstock be named this season's apprentice, he'll get his pick of two \$250,000, one-year jobs with the Trump Organization. He's already followed in the footsteps of past winners by developing his own Web site (www.leebienstock.com), though he has yet to — as every other past apprentice has done — write his own book. A look at where past champions are now:

Bill Rancic, 34

Though his one-year stint overseeing Chicago's Trump Tower was up last spring, Rancic has stayed on with "The Apprentice," showing up often in the boardroom to advise Trump on firing decisions. In 2004,



— is managing director of a venture-capital fund and running a real-estate enterprise with his father and brothers. He also hosted a series called "G.I. Factory" on the Military Channel.

Kendra Todd, 27

Already a Florida real-estate powerhouse before becoming an apprentice, Todd's been busy with the renovation and sale of a \$125-million, Trump-owned Palm Beach mansion. She



appears regularly as "Special Agent 53" on a Florida real-estate radio show and recently showed up in an infomercial for Billy Blanks' new workout videos.