

2010 Outstanding Women Law Student Awardees of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation



Ebonie Byndon, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, Michigan State University College of Law. Upon graduation from the University of Michigan, Ebonie worked as a clinical case manager in adult mental health in Cincinnati, before returning to school for a Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice (from Xavier University), and a Masters in Social Work (University of Cincinnati). Discovering her desire to work more closely with children, Ebonie also worked with her local Child Protective Services agency. Understanding her role as an advocate for children and families, Ebonie believed that her ability to act and influence the lives of others would be best met by attending law school. At MSU College of Law, she has been involved in the Black Law Students Association, and she plans to work in the Chance at Childhood Clinical Program, and become more involved with the Family Law Society. Ebonie plans to practice juvenile law as a Child Advocate upon graduation.



Elizabeth Campbell, Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar, University of Michigan Law School. Elizabeth was born and raised in Flint, Michigan, and received a Bachelors degree in English and Women's Studies from the University of Michigan in May of 2005. After graduating, Elizabeth worked for three years at SafeHouse Center, the domestic violence/sexual assault center in Ann Arbor. During the summer after her first year of law school she worked at the ACLU of Michigan. She is a Project Coordinator for the Family Law Project and the Selections Coordinator for the Michigan Journal of Gender and Law. She will spend the summer of 2010 working for the Refugee Status Appeals Authority in Auckland, New Zealand. Elizabeth will graduate in May of 2011 and hopes to work in Michigan assisting victims of gender exploitation.



Jessika Croizat, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, University of Michigan Law School. As an undergraduate student at UCLA, Jessika studied International Development and was very involved with workers rights and other social justice causes on campus. After graduation, Jessika served for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa, where she worked in rural communities developing public health programs. Her experience in Guinea inspired her to attend law school in order to acquire better skills for bringing about meaningful democratic reforms and promoting and defending human rights. During law school, Jessika has worked as a legal researcher at the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre in Delhi, India, on the UN Monitoring team at the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a Refugee and Asylum Law Fellow with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Lilongwe, Malawi. After graduation, Jessika will continue her work in refugee and asylum law on a six-month fellowship in the refugee camps of East Africa.



Jennifer Anne Dukarski, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

After obtaining her BS degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Detroit Mercy, Jennifer spent ten years in engineering management at Tier One automotive suppliers. While working, she also tutored and mentored working women who were seeking their first college degrees. As an evening law student, she became a twice published author and Associate Editor with the University of Detroit Mercy Law Review, and Executive Director of the Moot Court program. She won the first ever Moot Court National Championship sponsored by the University of Houston Law Center, and finished as runner up in the 2008 National Animal Law Moot Court Competition hosted at Harvard. Jennifer left the automotive industry in 2009 and worked as a Summer Associate at Butzel Long. She is interested in practicing intellectual property litigation or corporate litigation after graduation.



Heather M. French, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Heather is a second year student at Cooley with a Bachelors degree in psychology, who is employed full-time as a crisis counselor with the YWCA of west central Michigan. Starting 10 years ago as a sexual assault volunteer with the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program, she now manages this 24-hour program, providing crisis intervention for victims of sexual and domestic violence, and training new service providers on the dynamics of violence within relationships. Heather is a certified trauma and loss specialist and has volunteered her time with Grand Rapids Public Schools, working with pregnant and parenting teens; the Kent County Community Mental Health crisis line program; and the Kent County Court Appointed Special Advocate program for abused and neglected children. Heather plans to advocate for justice on behalf of women and girls throughout her professional career.



Erin Lane, Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar, Michigan State University College of Law.

Erin graduated summa cum laude from Loyola University Chicago with dual undergraduate degrees in criminal justice and international studies, and a Masters degree in criminal justice. During school, Erin worked as an intern with the elite Chicago Police Cold Case and Gang Intelligence Units, and traveled to Latin American to research violent Central American youth gangs. In law school, Erin has continued her dedication to criminal and public interest law, clerking for the U. S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan, and for federal District Judge Janet Neff. Erin also has worked as the teacher's assistant for constitutional law, and a research assistant for the legal research and writing department. Erin is a member of the Journal of International Law and plans on completing a certification in Indian Law through MSU College of Law's Indigenous Law and Policy Center. Upon graduation, Erin plans on practicing international human rights and indigenous law.



Ruth Lyons, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, Wayne State University Law School. Ruth graduated with distinction from the University of Michigan- Dearborn with a B.A. in International Affairs, and a minor in Women's Studies. Now in her second year of law school, she assisted in re-establishing the student chapters of the ACLU and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. Ruth is a junior member of Moot Court, and together with her partner won the Arthur Neef Moot Court Competition in the Fall of 2009. She is also a student member of WLAM, and participates in the membership and website committees for

the Women's Bar Association. During the summer after her first year, she worked as a student attorney at the Free Legal Aid Clinic, where she represented Spanish-speaking survivors of domestic violence in the area of family law. She presently works as a law clerk at Garan, Lucow, Miller, P.C. After graduation, Ruth plans to pursue a career in civil litigation.



Heather Main, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Heather has served the Cooley law school community through her involvement in the Grand Rapids campus chapters of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society; the International Law Society; and the Moot Court Board, which she also served as treasurer. For the past year, she has acted as a student attorney with the Access to Justice Clinic. Heather also works for Kenneth L. O'Deen, the Eaton County Guardian and Conservator at Zimmer & O'Deen Law Office in Charlotte,

Michigan, where she is responsible for guardian and conservator files and probate estates. She has demonstrated her dedication to service through her volunteer work with the Legal Assistance Center, where she helped clients complete legal forms and provided general legal information to pro se litigants. Her service and leadership are providing a framework for her legal education, enabling her to develop a strong positive professional identity, and preparing her for the practice of law.



Jennifer Pollock-Mason, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Scholar, Wayne State University Law School. Jennifer holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Wayne State and has been employed as a global program manager at General Motors Design for the past 14 years. As a third-year evening student at Wayne, she serves as an executive board member of the Women's Law Caucus, a representative for the Environmental Law Society, and a mentor for first-year law students. During her first year of law school, Ms. Pollock-Mason interned for the Hon. Edward Sosnick. For the past 11 years, Jennifer has

been involved as a volunteer crisis intervention counselor with HAVEN, spending thousands of hours responding to emergency domestic violence and sexual assault calls. She received a Phoenix Award for her longstanding commitment to the organization, and a "Women Who Make Magic" award from Magic 105.1 FM. Jennifer plans to pursue a career in criminal law after she graduates.



LeKena Pruitt, Women Lawyers Association Foundation Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. LaKena is a 3rd year student at UDM, and currently works with a program called Detroit TEENS, where she is a Program Coordinator. She enjoys giving back to youth at the same Boys & Girls Club she attended when she was a child. She works unselfishly with inner-city youth to help them achieve their dreams. She acts as a role model and mentor to the teenage girls by providing them with the tools needed to face everyday peer pressures and other fears that they may encounter, through programs like Date Smart, Smart Girls, and Goals for Graduation. LaKena plans to go into criminal law once she graduates, and to remain as a role model and mentor for inner-city teenage girls all over the world.