



2009 WLAM Outstanding Women Law Student Awardees

Keisha Clarke, WLAM Foundation Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Keisha is currently a second-year law student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. During her undergraduate years, Keisha became the founder and president of the Society of Sisters United/Brothers United Organization (SOSU/BU). Under her leadership, the organization's accomplishments ranged from assisting teenage mothers to obtain jobs and pursue higher education; to promoting diversity and public service in the Oneonta, NY community. Before beginning her law studies, Keisha spent five years working in various positions assisting mentally and physically disabled persons on Long Island, NY. As a member of her law school's nationally ranked Moot Court Board of Advocates, Keisha recently demonstrated her strong oral advocacy skills as a competitor in the McGee Civil Rights Moot Court Competition.

Nisreen Fakhouri, General Motors Scholar at Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Nisreen attended the University of Michigan on an athletic scholarship, graduating with degrees in Political Science and Psychology, and played a starting guard position with the Jordanian National Federation of Basketball after graduation. While at Cooley, she has hosted many charity events, raising money for such causes as Detroit's Childrens Hospital, and has served as an ambassador to new students. Nisreen currently works at the Wayne County Prosecutors Office in the trial division, and helps with new intern orientation. She also served as Michigan

ambassador to a “Women2Women” conference at Harvard that provided an opportunity for young women to meet with national and international women leaders.

Anu Gokarn, General Motors Scholar at Wayne State University Law School

Anu is a domestic violence survivor who came to this country in 2000, and got her gender-based asylum in 2001. Since then she has been actively rebuilding her life, obtaining her Associates Degree in Computer Information System, and her Bachelor’s degree with concentration in Political Science, Sociology and Women & Gender Studies. She worked for First Step for more than five years, starting as a Data Entry Clerk and rising to the level of Data Specialist. In 10 short years, she has changed her life and her dream is to help other women who are struggling with domestic violence. This summer she plans to do her internship at Freedom House of Detroit, the same organization that helped her with her asylum case.

Leigh A. Hansmann, WLAM Foundation Scholar at Michigan State University College of Law

After graduating with her B.A. in political science from Michigan State University, Leigh is now a third year law student at MSU College of Law, where she serves as Notes Editor of the Michigan State Law Review, and as a competing oral advocate on the Moot Court & Trial Advocacy Board. Her article “Sex, Selling Power, and Salacious Commentary: Applying the Copyright Fair Use Doctrine in the Trademark Context” was recently chosen for publication. Additionally, she has been privileged to compete and take awards in national appellate advocacy competitions in Washington D.C., Chicago, and Malibu. She is looking forward to competing this spring in New York City. Leigh currently works as a law clerk at Oade, Stroud & Kleiman, P.C. in East Lansing, and looks forward to continuing her work in the community.

Kristiné M. Hansen, General Motors Scholar at Michigan State University College of Law

After obtaining her BA in political science from The George Washington University, Kristiné worked for two non-profits focusing on women’s leadership and women’s economic empowerment. Following these positions, Kristiné spent two years in as a senior aide to US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), and then traveled the world working for a consulting firm that addressed issues of gender, diversity, and under-served populations in developing countries. In law school she has served as the Co-President of the Women’s Law Caucus, the Regional Chair of Ms. JD, and as a student representative on the College of Law’s Diversity Committee. Currently, Kristiné serves as executive editor of the Journal of International Law and as a senior member of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team. After graduation, she will begin her position as a first year associate with Dykema in Detroit.

Jennifer Kannenberg, WLAM Foundation Scholar at Thomas M. Cooley Law School

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Jennifer started law school at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in the Fall of 2006 with a strong desire in public interest law. Since starting at Cooley, Jennifer has worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children in Eaton County and has worked her way up to Assistant Director of Programs at Cristo Rey Community Center – a non profit in the Lansing area. On Campus, Jennifer is a Member of the Diversity Committee and is President of the first student chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Jennifer is currently participating in the Public Defender Clinic located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and her desire is to become a public defender after graduation.

Lillian N. Kishek, WLAM Foundation Scholar, Wayne State University Law School

Lillian graduated with high distinction from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Psychology along with a minor in Political Science. She has a strong commitment to issues of civil rights and social justice. Lillian has interned at the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) as well as for State Representative John D. Dingell. Currently Lillian is in her second year of law school and serves as the assistant editor of the Wayne Law Review, and the Senior Note and Comment Editor. For the past year, Lillian has worked at the Free Legal Aid Clinic, facing compelling domestic violence cases, and providing legal assistance to low-income individuals with family law and elder law issues. After graduating law school, she is looking forward to continuing to work on behalf of women and minorities in bringing about social justice.

Katie Ladewski, Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School

After graduating from Stanford University, Katie spent two years studying the impact of economic reforms on vulnerable groups, first as a Fulbright Scholar in Chile and then at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She is currently in her second year at Michigan Law, where she serves as Article Editor of the Michigan Law Review. Last summer, she interned at the AIRE Centre, an NGO focusing on international human rights, and she will be spending the summer of 2009 as an intern with the USDOJ Antitrust Division.

Kimberly A. Mlinaz, Ford Motor Company Scholar at Thomas M. Cooley Law School

After graduating from Michigan Technological University with a degree in Chemical Engineering, Kimberly became a successful manager in the corrugated packaging industry. While holding a leadership position in her profession, she focused her personal energy on civic involvement through teaching for Junior Achievement, fundraising for the American Red Cross, and various leadership roles in the Kalamazoo Jaycees. Ready to take her career to the next level, she enrolled in the weekend program at Thomas M. Cooley Law School so she could continue her full time employment. Kimberly plans to do intellectual property and contract work for the United States Military after graduation.

Megan Moslimani, Ford Motor Company Scholar at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

After graduating from the University of Michigan Dearborn, Megan started law school at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law three months later. Since coming to the University of Detroit Mercy she has committed herself to public interest law. She completed a judicial externship for the 20th District Court for the City of Dearborn Heights in the Summer of 2008 and then began an internship with the Wayne County Prosecutors Office in the Fall of 2008 for the Preliminary Exams Division. She is also an executive board member of the Arab and Chaldean Law Student Association and is a member of the Dean's Honor Society. Megan also volunteers with local high school students, helping them to get into college.

Lauren Nakamura, General Motors Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School

After graduating from New York University's Film and Television program, Lauren worked on the documentary "Citizen King," about Martin Luther King, Jr. Her interest in civil rights brought her to the ACLU National Office, where she worked for two years prior to law school. Since coming to the University of Michigan Law School, Lauren has served as the Political

Action Chair for the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, and is also a contributing editor on the Michigan Journal of Race and Law. Lauren participated in both the General Law Clinic and the Advanced Clinic, which represent indigent clients in criminal and civil matters. Lauren spent her first summer working at Georgia Capital Defender, which provides trial representation to indigent defendants charged with capital crimes. In her second summer, she worked at Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a small public defender office that focuses on holistic representation. Upon graduating, Lauren will go to work at the Kentucky Public Defender's office.

Katherine Nielson, WLAM Foundation Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School

Originally from Cleveland, OH, Kate Nielson earned her bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College in Government and Legal Studies, with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. After graduation, Kate moved to Washington, DC, to work for the Feminist Majority Foundation as a National Campus Organizer. While at the University of Michigan, Kate is pursuing both a JD and a Master's of Public Policy. Last semester she served as 1L Representative for the Women Law Student Association, and she is currently the webchair for the Organization of Public Interest Students.

Diana Nordlund, WLAM Foundation Scholar at Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Diana joined the student body at Cooley while completing a residency in Emergency Medicine. As a medical student, she directed a free clinic for the medically underserved and actively advocated for women's access to health care. Prior to medical training, she earned a Master of Music, created a musical theatre cabaret to raise funds for medical charities, taught undergraduate women's courses, and performed internationally. After graduation, Diana plans to augment the practice of medicine with work in health law.

Erica Partee, Ford Motor Company Scholar at Wayne State University Law School

Erica is a third year student at Wayne State University Law School where she serves as an Assistant Editor on the Wayne Law Review. Erica previously worked as a summer associate at Honigman, and interned with the Honorable Patrick J. Duggan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District. While in law school, Erica served on the executive board of Wayne's Black Law Student Association. Prior to law school, Erica volunteered with Junior Achievement. For her academic achievements, Erica has received a number of awards, including the Ira J. Spoon scholarship for the highest grade in property law, a faculty award for academic achievement in criminal law, an honors pass in legal research and writing, the Wade H. McCree scholarship, and a Silver Key Award for academic excellence.

Julianne Pastula, Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Julianne is a married mother of three enrolled in the extended evening program at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1997, she continued to work full time as a paralegal in local law firms until joining the Detroit City Council Research & Analysis Division as a public policy analyst in 2003. Her professional work focuses on housing, development and community issues. Julianne is a member of the Dean's Honor Society, Women's Law Caucus and is active in student government. She is also active in

her children's school through her volunteering efforts, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) activities and as a member of the Livonia Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors.

Veronica Percia, WLAM Foundation Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School

Veronica is a 2nd year law student at the University of Michigan Law School and a member of the Michigan Journal of Gender and Law. She graduated from Northwestern University in 2006 with a degree in Gender Studies and Communications and a concentration in Media and Politics, where she completed an honors thesis on the topic of Women in Politics. She spent a year working for then-Senator Barack Obama in his Chicago District Office, and went on to pursue a Public Interest Fellowship with CARPLS Legal Aid in downtown Chicago. She is interested in the intersection between law and public policy, especially in the area of sex discrimination and employment.

Renee Rowland, General Motors Scholar at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Renee is currently in her third year of the evening program at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She also works full-time as a Design Engineer at GM. Prior to law school, Renee earned her Mechanical Engineering Degree from Wayne State University. During her time at Wayne State, she was actively involved in the Society of Women Engineers. Renee has helped promote diversity and the position of women in engineering and will continue to do the same in the legal field. Renee is interested in practicing Patent Law, Products Liability or Corporate Law after she graduates.

Caitlin Salazer-Reid, WLAM Foundation Scholar at Michigan State University College of Law

After graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2005, Caitlin spent time working as an assistant for the Thames Valley Neighborhood Early Learning Program's "Ready for School Program" in London, Ontario. The program targets at-risk communities and facilitates the transition into kindergarten for three-year-olds and their parents. Caitlin continues to maintain an interest in education, particularly education in at-risk communities, and is currently a research assistant for her education law professor. Prior to law school, Caitlin played four years of Division 1 ice hockey for the UConn Huskies. While her playing days are over, she still enjoys the chance to coach the younger generation of female athletes when she can.

Katherine Spicer, Ford Motor Company Scholar at Michigan State University College of Law

Upon graduating from Florida State University in 2001, Katherine went on to get her commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. She served as a supply officer and successfully completed two tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007, she was selected for the Marine Corps law program and is presently a student at Michigan State University College of Law. Katherine will join the ranks of the Navy JAG Corps upon graduating law school and will continue her service with the United States Marine Corps.

Andrea Tawil, WLAM Foundation Scholar at Wayne State University Law School

Andrea Tawil is a third-year law student at Wayne State University Law School, where she received Bronze and Silver Key Certificates for academic achievement. She serves as

Symposium Director and Reviewing Editor for the Journal of Law in Society, and her student note, *Prosecution Versus Protection: Laws Defining Drug Activity As Child Abuse, and Why Such Laws Should Apply Equally To Vulnerable Adult Abuse*, will be published in the Journal's Spring 2009 issue. She also serves as co-president of the Progressive Organization for Women's Rights. During law school, Andrea interned for Legal Services of South Central Michigan, the State Appellate Defenders Office, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly, and worked as research assistant to WSU Professor Anthony Dillof. An enthusiastic writer and researcher, Andrea's long-term goal is to practice appellate law in a public interest field.