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E Newsletter

Fall 2013

2014 Scholarship Awards

Now accepting applications

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of year-2014 awards to outstanding women law students, funded by generous contributions from individuals, law firms, and corporations. \$30,000 will be awarded statewide to 10 outstanding women law students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. For information on how to apply, please visit our website at www.wlamfoundation.org.



Pictured left, our 2013 awardees at this year's Reception: Jillian Ambrose; Stephanie Edwards; Elise Elzinga; Ryanne Exposito; Caitlin Howitt; LaToya

McBean; Klaudia Nikolli; J. Olabisi Ogboye; Suzanne Quinn; and Rachel Soren.

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation's primary mission is to support the legal education of women who show leadership in advancing the position of women in society. Donations can be made through our website, by emailing the foundation, or by contacting WLAMF Treasurer Paula Talarico at (248) 740-7003.

WLAMF Contributes to Just the Beginning Foundation

We are pleased to present a \$1,000 contribution to **Just the Beginning Foundation High School Summer Legal Institute (JTBF)**, as part of our ongoing educational philanthropy. This contribution supports the week-long law program for metropolitan Detroit high school students that is overseen by U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts and Cooley Auburn Hills Dean John Nussbaumer. (Pictured above with WLAMF President Dawn Van Hoek). Part of the "Motor City Pipeline" intended to increase diversity in the profession, the institute links high school students with practicing lawyers, and trains them in lawyering skills such as oral argument and negotiation. 2013 marks the fourth year of the project, which has reached dozens of Detroit-area students.



For more information on *Just The Beginning Foundation*, please visit our website or go to www.jtbf.org.

☆ Prior Awardee Spotlight: RAQUEL SALAS



Raquel Salas is the 2006 Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Ford Motor Fund Scholarship winner. Since graduating from Michigan State University College of Law in 2006,

she started her career as an associate at Warner Norcross practicing corporate and family law, and started her own practice four years later. Raquel and her partners acquired another firm, which they rebranded as the Avanti Law Group, because she saw an unaddressed need for affordable legal services and wanted to do her part to fill the void. Her rapidly expanding practice focuses on assisting small businesses and start-up companies in the areas of family, business, and criminal law, particularly white collar crime cases.

As a business owner, Raquel knows that every dollar counts. She applied that same philosophy to her legal education, financing law school with loans and every scholarship for which she was eligible, including the WLAM Foundation Ford Motor Fund Scholarship. Of the impact that the WLAMF Scholarship has had on her career, Raquel mentioned that the scholarship helped reduce her student loan debt, which has allowed her the financial freedom to do the work about which she is passionate.



Stay Connected!

For more information on the Foundation's community involvement, scholarship program and upcoming events please visit our website at www.wlamfoundation.org or email us at wlamfmi@gmail.com.



Why support WLAMF?

Prior awardees say it best. WLAM Foundation often hears from previous recipients on the impact of the scholarships they have received. Here are a couple:

"Receiving this honor motivates me to strive even harder in the pursuit of social and racial equality and assures me that there are people who acknowledge and appreciate these goals." –Melanie Elturk (2008 WLAMF Scholar)

"Encouragement from members of the legal community means a great deal; you legitimate public interest work, and you motivate me, and I'm sure other recipients, to work even harder. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

–Jennifer Hill (2007 WLAMF General Motors Scholar)

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation Reception Sponsors

In addition to our Dean's List supporters, we have Foundation Sponsors that help make our annual Reception possible. These Sponsors contribute specifically toward our Reception that recognizes our women law student awardees. In addition to our scholarship winners, this event honors other individuals and organizations aligned with our philosophy of education and community enrichment.

A big thank you to the 2013 Reception Sponsors!

~ **Kenneth M. Bernard, CFA**
Bernard Wealth Management Corp.

~ **Nancy Glen & Ralph McDowell**

~ **Hon. Michael & Meghan Riordan**

~ **Talarico & Associates P.C.**