



WOMEN LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

www.wlamfoundation.org

E Newsletter

Fall 2014

~ Save The Date ~

WLAM Foundation Annual Reception

Please save the evening of **Wednesday, March 25, 2015**, for the Annual Reception of the WLAM Foundation. This is our time to introduce the 2015 Outstanding Women Law Students, ten women who will receive \$30,000 in scholarships supporting their law school education. And, the Reception is also the Foundation's time to recognize and thank the donors who make these awards possible.

The setting for the Reception is Southfield's **Great Lakes Culinary Center** (www.glculinarycenter.com).



*Pictured above: our 2014 Awardees at this year's Reception: **Emily Gillingham; Zaneta Adams; Mylika Johnson; Alexandra Smith; Shannon King; Nayda Verier Taylor; Yassaman Hajivalizadeh; Sharar Ben-Josef; Farah Alkersan.***



Stay Connected!

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

Thank you to the Bench-Bar Culinary Challenge Committee

The 7th Annual Bench-Bar Culinary Challenge was held at the home of Court of Appeals Judge Kristen Frank Kelly on June 12th. The charitable event benefits Alternatives for

Girls, Crossroads for Youth and our own WLAM Foundation Scholarship Fund. We wholeheartedly thank the organizers,



participants, and Culinary Challenge Committee: Lavinia Biasell & Valerie Newman (Co-Chairs); Judge Lisa Asadoorian; Denise Alexander; Carol Breitmeyer; Evanne Dietz; Nancy Glen; Judge Linda Hallmark; Elizabeth Jolliffe; Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly; Judge Colleen O'Brien; Julia Perkins; Anne Cole Pierce; and Marcia Ross.

In individual competition, federal Judge George C. Steeh III won best judge's dessert and Kristen Pursley won best lawyer's appetizer. More information on this event and their charitable support can be found at their website:

www.facebook.com/BenchbarCulinaryChallenge

☆Prior Awardee Spotlight: MAYA WATSON



Maya Watson is the WLAM Foundation's 2007 General Motors Scholar. Now a member in Bodman's Detroit office, Maya's practice focuses on banking law. She helps her banking clients with negotiating loans, bond and transactional deals, and workout proceedings related to troubled properties.

Given her commitment to her clients, Maya's commitment to bar association service is outstanding. She is a member of the Leadership Detroit Class XXXIII (2011-2012) and was named Barrister of the Year in 2010 by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. Maya also is the co-chair of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Equal Access Initiative and serves on the SBM Justice Initiatives Committee, which supports many justice initiatives that help make available high quality civil legal services to all Michigan citizens. Additionally, she has served as Co-Chair of the Wolverine Bar Association Membership Committee.

In addition to her extensive bar service, Maya is engaged in several civic activities. Most notable was her appointment to serve on Mayor David Bing's transition team. She has also served on the Board of the Greater Corktown Development Corporation working to enhance economic development activity in one of Detroit's most historic communities.

The General Motors Scholarship that the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation awarded made Maya "appreciative that women lawyers are supportive of female law students. It was heartwarming that successful, accomplished women attorneys wanted to see me succeed."

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.

State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award

Our own Foundation President, Dawn Van Hoek, was awarded *Champion of Justice Award* from the State Bar of Michigan on September 17th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This award

recognizes practicing lawyers and judges who have shown: "- Integrity and adherence to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession;

- Superior professional competence; and

- An extraordinary professional

accomplishment that

benefits the nation, the state, or the local community in which they live."

Dawn was recognized for her years of work in indigent criminal defense and her passage of the 2013 legislation creating the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. Dawn has a long career of working to create a working and constitutionally compliant trial-level public defense system in Michigan. She also created the State Appellate Defender Office's Criminal Defense Resource Center and is the current director of SADO, which has succeeded as a national model for appellate indigent defense.

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/champjusticeaward.cfm>

