



WOMEN LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN  
FOUNDATION

[www.wlamfoundation.org](http://www.wlamfoundation.org)

## E Newsletter

Fall 2017

### Florence King Scholar in Patent Law Award



This year WLAM Foundation introduced the **Florence King Scholar in Patent Law Award**. This award is funded by attorneys who practice in the area of patent law, and gives \$3,000 to an outstanding woman law

student. This awarded has been named in honor of Florence King (pictured above), the first female patent attorney in the U.S. and the first certified female member of the American Association of Engineers.

The 2017 award was funded by attorneys **Kristen L. Pursley and Farrah N. Arif** (The Dobrusin Law Firm); **Erin Morgan Klug** (Varnum LLP); **Denise M. Glassmeyer, Michelle L. Knight and Francine B. Nesti** (Young Basile); **Stephanie D. Jones** (General Motors); **Kristin L. Murphy** (Brooks Kushman); and **Linda D. Kennedy** (Pratt & Whitney).

The 2017 recipient of this award was **Ana Juneja** (pictured right) from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.



### Stay Connected!

For more information on the Foundation's community involvement, scholarship program and upcoming events visit our website at [www.wlamfoundation.org](http://www.wlamfoundation.org) or email us at [wlamfmi@gmail.com](mailto:wlamfmi@gmail.com).

### Thank you to the Bench-Bar Culinary Challenge Committee

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bench-Bar Culinary Challenge was held at the home of Judge Wendy Baxter this past June. 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: Carol Breitmeyer, Laura Eisenberg, and Nancy Glen (Co-Chairs); Lavinia Biasell; Erin Van Campen, Lori Henderson, Elizabeth Jolliffe, Valerie Newman, Julia Perkins and Marcia Ross.



More information on this event and their charitable support can be found on

their website:

[www.facebook.com/BenchbarCulinaryChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/BenchbarCulinaryChallenge)

## ★ Prior Awardee Spotlight



WLAM Foundation Prior Awardee **Keela Johnson** has come a long way since her days as a crisis counselor. Yet, the WMU Cooley Law School grad, now a shareholder with Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C., still works to protect victims in her family law

practice and as a guardian ad litem.

Johnson began working with families and juveniles in crisis after obtaining her MS in counseling from University of Wisconsin in 2000. She ran sexual assault victims' treatment program with "children that society cast aside," as she puts it. She decided to attend law school to become a better advocate. She credits her time as counselor with giving her perspective on how legal disputes impact children and families. She also says it made her "a better listener, more empathetic," and gave her the tools to earn her client's trust. She continued to use these skills through law school, where she served as a family advocate at Care House.

While in law school, Johnson had the opportunity to clerk for now retired Oakland Circuit Judge Joan Young, whom she considers a mentor. She describes her experience working for Judge Young as "amazing," and says the Judge advised her to "be the person who keeps her word," a standard she now lives by.

Johnson says that her education at Cooley "really prepared me for being a lawyer, not just learning the law." She still goes back to Cooley to conduct Professionalism Orientation for the law students. She also supports the Cooley Closet, a program that provides suits for students who cannot afford it and that helped her when she was a law student.

As for her WLAM Foundation scholarship, Johnson said that when she moved to Michigan, she came here with nothing. She had to work three part-time jobs to make ends meet, and the scholarship money was a big help and gratefully received. Johnson and her firm continue to support the Foundation's mission of advancing women law students.

The WLAM Foundation applauds Johnson's achievements and her determination to be an advocate for her clients. Her professional accomplishments highlight the reason the Foundation works to provide scholarships and support women law students.

## Do Good Work Grant

At our Reception for Education and Community Leadership in March, **Hope Shores Alliance** was awarded the WLAM Foundation's "**Do Good Work Grant.**" This is a grant of **\$1,000.00** awarded to a nonprofit associated with a prior WLAMF Scholarship Awardee. The organization in receipt of a Do Good Work Grant exemplified the mission and goal of the WLAM Foundation.

The organization applied for the grant by **Kathleen Conklin, prior**



**WLAMF Awardee (2005)** (pictured above with WLAMF Treasurer Paula Talarico and prior awardee Maya Watson.) Katy's work and others at HAS provides support for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. They work to provide a safe space for victims and provides validation, hope and strength to all survivors who seek their help. The organization works to change the connections between oppression, rape culture and violence, and work to change the way these linkages are perpetuated in society.

## Support Our Scholarships

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.