



Presenting the 2007 MCCA Lloyd M. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship Program Recipients*



Francis Arvelo, Adorno & Yoss LLP

University of Pennsylvania Law School

Francis Arvelo a Hispanic American, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a B.S. in sports management. He initially came to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to play football, but he quit after his first year to focus more attention on his studies. Arvelo is currently a first-year law student at the University of Pennsylvania law school. He would like to work in a large corporate law firm and then as in-house counsel for the NBA or NFL where he hopes to promote diversity and help low-income families.



Samika N. Boyd, Gordon & Rees, LLP/Palm, Inc.

University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Samika Nicole Boyd was born in a disadvantaged neighborhood of New Orleans and raised by a single mother. Her mother had never learned to read so Samika, who was going to school and working fulltime at Wendy's, taught her mother how to read. Despite the difficulties, Samika Boyd graduated as the Valedictorian of her high school class. She received her B.A. summa cum laude in political science from Howard University in 2005 where she also completed a master's in American government and Black politics in May 2007. She is currently a first year student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and she is interested in helping underprivileged children.



Pauline Chow, Kelley Drye Collier Shannon

University of Wisconsin Law School

Pauline Chow graduated cum laude from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in statistics and international studies. As an Asian-Pacific American with a Chinese heritage, Chow lobbied for minority rights by co-founding the National Asian American Women's Forum and leveraging her skills in project management, research and business planning to recruit like-minded leaders. She is enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Madison Law School where she hopes to continue to provide a voice for minorities in society. In addition to her passion for law, Chow likes to rock climb and she is an avid yoga instructor.



2007



Noelle Chung, Patton Boggs LLP

Stanford Law School

Noelle Lea Chung is attending Stanford Law School. Chung was on a fast track through college. By the age of 13, she had already earned an Associate of Arts with honors from Walla Walla Community College, which allowed her to enter Whitman College on a full-ride academic scholarship. During her undergraduate studies, she took a course study in European culture for one year at the "Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)". She received a B.A. with honors, Salutatorian, summa cum laude, from Whitman College in 2004 and a master's of international studies from Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul, Korea, in 2006. As a lawyer, Chung plans to pursue a career in international law.



Jerome Coenic-Taylor, Vault, Inc.

University of Iowa College of Law

Jerome Coenic-Taylor grew up in a subsidized housing project on the far southside of Chicago. Education became Coenic-Taylor's outlet and way out of poverty. He was Valedictorian of his 8th grade class which allowed him to attend Morgan Park High School, one of the top three public schools in the city of Chicago. Coenic-Taylor attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in sociology in 2007. He is now a first-year law student at the University of Iowa Law School. His long-term goals include practicing as a corporate lawyer with nonprofit organizations to further educational programs in African-American communities and starting a scholarship program for underprivileged children.



April Gu, Fulbright & Jaworski LLP

New York University School of Law

April Gu is a first-year law student at New York University School of Law interested in pursuing a career in corporate law. She graduated cum laude with a B.S. in economics and international business from New York University's Stern School of Business. In addition, she excelled as a Fulbright Fellow conducting economic development research in Beijing for one year. Her dedication and drive to increase awareness and interest in diversity started early on in her education. During her junior year of high school, she was a delegate of the United States to the U.N. Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, where she worked to combat racism and intolerance. Gu hopes to use the law to help further the goals and needs of underrepresented populations.



2007



Ana Lucia Hurtado, Baker Botts LLP

Harvard Law School

Ana Lucia Hurtado graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in psychology. Hurtado is a first-generation Peruvian whose parents escaped the rebel guerilla forces and fled to the United States when she was four years-old. Her interest in the law arose when she interned at The University of Texas School of Law's Children's Rights Clinic and at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. Hurtado is a first-year student at Harvard Law School and she is interested in providing legal counsel in the areas of employment, health and immigration law. She is the proud mother of a four-year old son.



Elissa Johnson, Crowell & Moring, LLP

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Elissa Francis Johnson graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English and sociology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She is currently a first-year law student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Johnson is an activist for children's rights and spent two years mentoring and tutoring youth enrolled in after-school programs. Her volunteer activities include the foundation of a service learning initiative at Fisk University called Fisk C.A.R.E.S. (Compassionate Activism through Responsible Engagement and Service). She would like to use her law degree to serve disadvantaged populations.



Leslie Lang, King & Spalding LLP

Harvard Law School

Leslie Lang is a first-year law student at Harvard Law School. She graduated with highest honors with a B.S. in business administration and B.A. in rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley. During her studies, she interned at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (a war crimes tribunal set up by the U.N. and the Government of Sierra Leone) to seek justice for atrocities committed during the civil war. Lang decided to defer her admission to Harvard for one year in order to work as part of the Africa division at the World Bank. There, she worked to improve access to finance in Africa. Her goal is to use her legal skills to fight poverty and inequalities.



Brandon Loggins, Wheeler Trigg Kennedy LLP

University of Illinois College of Law

Brandon Loggins graduated cum laude with a B.A. in political science and a minor in history from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in May 2005. After graduating from college, Loggins became a fourth grade classroom teacher at Lucilia Wood Elementary School. As a teacher in a low-income school district, he was committed to overcoming educational inequalities and serving his community. Currently he is a first-year law student at the University of Illinois, College of Law. He would like to return to an urban or rural low-income school district and practice civil rights law to achieve social change.



William Nevin, Microsoft Corporation

University of Alabama School of Law

William C. Nevin, a Native American, pursued a B.A. in journalism and political science from the University of Alabama. He graduated summa cum laude with a 3.999 GPA in May 2007. As a Native American, he witnessed how the small Poarch Creek Indian tribe of Alabama fought for decades to combat poverty to pay for basic needs of its members. Nevin is currently enrolled in University of Alabama School of Law and interested in using his degree to represent minority groups and assist his small Poarch Creek Indian tribe.



Dalisai Nisperos, Microsoft Corporation

University of Pennsylvania Law School

Dalisai S. Nisperos graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in ethnic studies and a minor in Spanish. As an undergraduate, Nisperos spent a year studying abroad in Mexico City where she attended the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She also participated in various public service activities. Upon graduating, she completed a fellowship with the Superior Court of California and later worked to address youth and community development issues in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is currently a first-year student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



Estephanie Resnik, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Estephanie Susan Resnik, a Hispanic American from Miami, Florida, graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in print journalism and political science, and a minor in business administration from the University of Miami in May 2007. She is currently a first-year law student at the University of Florida Law School. As a child of a single, working mother who emigrated from Cuba, Resnik displayed responsibility and drive at an early age by working part-time and volunteering in her community. Her goal after law school is to serve as a corporate lawyer in the media industry and to be an advocate for equality and justice in society as a whole.



2007



Natalie Sanders, Robert Half Legal

Harvard Law School

Natalie Sanders graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in business administration and a minor in Spanish from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2003. For a number of years, Sanders traveled the world and taught mathematics and thematic studies. Her experience led her to accept teaching assignments in classrooms all over the world, from one-room shanties in Naivasha, Kenya, to university lecture halls in Monterey, Mexico. She worked with people of all ages, backgrounds and colors, which confirmed her need to study law to effectively achieve social change. She is now enrolled in Harvard Law School and would like to use her law degree to assist other minority groups.



Anthony Ryan Scott, Vault, Inc.

Indiana University School of Law Indianapolis

Anthony Ryan Scott, an African-American, is in his first year of law school at Indiana University School of Law. Scott graduated cum laude with a B.S. in business information systems from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2002. During college, he enlisted and spent seven years in the United States Army. He served as sergeant in the army and was sent to Panama, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and Haiti. His success as a soldier inspired him to study law and provide African-American people with adequate representation. He desires to become one of the best lawyers to graduate from Indiana University School of Law and serve the underrepresented groups in society.



Jonathan Steele, Microsoft Corporation

University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Jonathan Thomas Steele, a Native American from Lenexa, Kansas, graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in political science. As a Native American growing up poor in Kansas, he often experienced racial discrimination. Due to his background and heritage, Steele realized his interest for the law and social justice at an early age. He spent a summer as an intern at Winston & Strawn LLP. He is enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, he would like to mentor other Native Americans and represent all of the nation's tribes.



2007



Robert Valenzuela, Vault, Inc.

Pepperdine University School of Law

Robert Antonio Valenzuela graduated magna cum laude from George Wyeth College in Cedar City, Utah, with a B.A. in statesmanship/diplomacy and a minor in political science. Valenzuela is multi-lingual and speaks Spanish, French and Japanese. He is now a first-year law student at Pepperdine University School of Law. He grew up at the Arizona-Mexico border. With the support of his family, he escaped a limited future in Mexico to pursue his education in the United States. His ultimate goal is to become a corporate lawyer with a focus on international trade law.



Alexander White, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Georgetown University Law Center

Alexander Bernard White graduated from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, VA, and now attends Georgetown University Law Center. He spent three summers as a legal intern at Heinz Corporation where he worked with the in-house counsel department. In addition to his legal aspirations, White was on the men's basketball team at Washington & Lee. He is interested in pro bono work in the area of social justice and his ultimate goal is to become in-house counsel of a corporation before transitioning back into academia.



David Zhou, Vault, Inc.

Yale Law School

David Zhou, an Asian-American, graduated Phi Beta Kappa with highest honors from Harvard College receiving a B.A. in government. His Chinese heritage and firsthand knowledge of the human rights violations suffered under an oppressive Chinese regime, led Zhou to decide at an early age that he wanted to be a lawyer and advocate for justice. While an undergrad, he interned on Capitol Hill under the sponsorship of the American Institute for Congressional Studies. He is now a first-year law student at Yale Law School. His long-term goal is to become an international corporate lawyer.

**The Biographies were provided by scholars upon their selections.*