Alemayehu Ayanaw, Microsoft Corporation
Washington University School of Law

Alemayehu Ayanaw was born to a young mother and was raised by his paternal grandmother in Ethiopia until age seven, when he was brought by his father to the United States. Ayanaw is currently a first-year law student at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.A. in psychology and African-American studies and earned a Master of Science in higher education administration from the University of Kansas. Ayanaw is interested in providing legal counsel in the areas of labor and employment and educational law.

Nila Bala, Microsoft Corporation
Yale Law School

Nila Bala grew up watching her parents, immigrants to the United States, attempt to navigate the school system on behalf of her younger sister. Despite the obstacles her family faced, Bala graduated with distinction from Stanford University with a B.A. in human biology. She furthered her interest in child advocacy and education after working as an intern at the Youth Law Center. Bala hopes to continue her work with children while expanding her understanding of legal advocacy as a first-year student at Yale Law School.

Alejandro Callirgos, Walmart
University of California, Hastings School of Law

Callirgos graduated from the University of Miami with a B.A. in English and criminology. As an immigrant from Lima, Peru, Callirgos overcame a challenging childhood that inspired his passion for helping underprivileged and troubled youth, and immigrant families. Callirgos is a first-year student at the University of California-Hastings College of the Law. He plans to pursue a career in corporate law and continue serving disadvantaged populations.
Jennifer Castillo, Arnold & Porter LLP
Boston College Law School

Jennifer Castillo graduated from Boston College with a B.A. in international studies and a minor in women’s studies. She is pursuing a law degree in order to serve as an advocate for those that have been systematically marginalized and ignored by our justice system. Castillo emigrated from the Dominican Republic to Lawrence, Massachusetts, a community with a large immigrant population. Inspired by the example of hard work set forth by her mother, Castillo decided she would do all she could to uplift her community. Castillo is a first-year student at Boston College Law School and she is interested in immigration and international law.

Kendri Cesar, Crowell & Moring LLP
Harvard Law School

Kendri Cesar is currently a first-year student at Harvard Law School. She graduated in 2008 from Dartmouth College, where she majored in environmental studies and minored in Arabic language and literature. As a Tlingit Indian from Southeast Alaska, Cesar is interested in environmental issues affecting Alaska Natives, and hopes to use her education to advocate for rural subsistence rights, sustainable resource development and cultural preservation in her home state.

Peter Chin, John Deere Company
University of Maryland School of Law

Peter Chin is currently attending law school at the University of Maryland School of Law. He is a first-generation Chinese American and the first in his family to obtain a graduate or professional degree. Chin graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in social welfare and a minor in public policy, and received a master’s in risk and prevention from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.
Bejide` Davis, Walmart Stores, Inc.
Emory University School of Law

Bejide` Davis is currently a first-year law student at the Emory University School of Law. Davis graduated summa cum laude from Spelman College with a B.A. in economics and a minor in management & organization. While at Spelman College, Davis was honored to become a member of the Epsilon of Georgia Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. A native of Lansing, Michigan, Davis gives her free time to her community through tutoring and mentoring programs in the Atlanta area. Davis became interested in the area of entertainment law at an early age and continues to pursue that passion today.

Elio Gonzalez, Nixon Peabody LLP
UCLA Law School

Elio Gonzalez immigrated to the United States with his family from Mexico at the age of five. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in political science and a B.A. in psychology in May 2009 from Texas A&M University. Through perseverance, Gonzalez pursued a childhood dream of traveling. He studied and interned abroad in Germany, Austria and Spain. As a result, he developed an interest in international law. Gonzalez is currently a first-year law student at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

Kelvan Howard, Baker & McKenzie LLP
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Kelvan Howard, the son of a farmer, grew up in a small migrant farming community. He graduated with highest honors from the University of Florida where he received a B.S. in mechanical engineering, and then earned a Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He worked as a technical analyst and patent agent at Morrison and Foerster, and as an intellectual property strategist at MDS Analytical Technologies before returning to Berkeley for law school. He hopes to combine his legal education with his biotechnology background to expand access to health care technological advances for underserved communities around the world.
Edwin Lindo, Microsoft Corporation  
University of Washington School of Law

Edwin Lindo is currently a first-year student at the University of Washington School of law. He received his B.S. in business administration from the University of the Pacific in 2009. Lindo is a first-generation college graduate and was born and raised in the inner city of San Francisco. His interest in pursuing a legal education came from his time interning at the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office and the opportunities he has had to lobby his California senators. Lindo has interest in pursuing business or international law while maintaining a connection with underserved communities through pro bono work.

William Moon, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
Yale Law School

William Moon is a first-year law student at Yale Law School. He graduated first in his class at the University of Michigan, where he received a B.B.A. in business administration. He is the founding editor-in-chief of The Michigan Journal of Business, an academic journal that is cataloged in over 200 university libraries worldwide. Prior to law school, Moon worked as an assistant researcher at Seoul National University in South Korea. At Yale Law School, Moon is interested in taking courses in constitutional, corporate, and international law, with an ultimate aspiration to become a lawyer and a legal academic.

William Perry, Robert Half Legal  
New York University School of Law

William Perry graduated with a B.S. in business administration and a focus in finance from the University of Florida. Perry intends to pursue a corporate law career concentrating in the fields of capital markets or mergers and acquisitions. He gained his interest in finance from evenings spent with his father, who started his career as a janitor of a small retail bank eventually retiring as a vice president, talking about general stock market and real estate investments. Perry is currently a first-year law student at New York University School of Law and hopes to continue his career in the New York legal market upon graduation.
Diane Rish, Day Pitney LLP
University of Virginia School of Law

Diane Rish is a Mexican-American student in her first-year at the University of Virginia School of Law. She graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University with a B.A. in international relations. She is interested in pursuing a career in the field of immigration law. Her interest was sparked by internships with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, the Consulate General of Mexico, and by work experience as an immigration paralegal for two law firms in Arizona. Proud of her heritage and eager to improve educational opportunities for Mexican-Americans, Rish has volunteered for several years with AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute, a college preparatory program for Mexican-American high school students.

Freddie Stokes, Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Freddie Stokes graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in political science and international relations from Alabama A&M University. Stokes is the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college. Growing up in a poverty stricken area, he decided to focus on education as his way out. Stokes founded Men of America Nurturing and Ushering Progress, Incorporated (M.A.N.U.P.), an organization aimed at mentoring at risk males on college campuses and in underprivileged communities. While he is interested in becoming a corporate lawyer, Stokes also wishes to offer first-rate legal representation to poor communities. He is currently a first-year student at Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Karla Turner, King & Spalding LLP
Vanderbilt University Law School

Karla Turner grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and is currently pursuing her law degree at Vanderbilt University Law School. In May of 2009, Turner graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Fisk University after completing her B.A. in English. Although Turner has always wanted to practice law, her interest grew after interning at the law offices of Thomas, Means, Gillis, and Seay P.C. and the Birmingham Urban League. Turner’s study in Ghana and her experiences with the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Drum Major Institute for Public Policy have allowed her to explore her interest in law and public policy.
Demi Williams, McGuireWoods LLP
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Demi Williams graduated summa cum laude from Pepperdine University in 2009 with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in Spanish. Currently a first-year student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Williams is the second in her family to obtain a bachelor’s degree and the first to receive a graduate-level education. Especially interested in the nexus between sports and the law, she spent her post-graduation summer working with NCAA Compliance and Athletics Administration at Texas Christian University and plans to pursue a career working within the National Football League arena.

Timothy Wong, Groom Law Group
Northwestern University School of Law

Timothy Wong is currently a first-year law student at Northwestern University School of Law. He graduated with a B.A. in business administration from the University of Washington. He also received his M.B.A. in finance and corporate accounting from the Simon Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester. Prior to law school, he worked for two years as a certified public accountant for Deloitte & Touche LLP in the Audit and Enterprise Risk Services group. Always a strong believer in hands-on community service, he was a regular volunteer with Earthcorps, an environmental service organization. Wong plans to practice transactional corporate law.

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