Presenting the 2012 MCCA Lloyd M. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship Program Recipients

Adam Amir, Microsoft Corporation
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Adam Amir graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.A. in political science and interdisciplinary studies. Amir was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and was named a Truman Scholar. Amir, who is openly gay, is a first-generation college student whose parents immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s. After college, he worked for two years for the chief policy advisor to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Amir is a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

KeAndra Barlow, NAMWOLF
University of Michigan Law School

KeAndra Barlow graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California, as a Renaissance Scholar, with a B.A. in political science and a minor in dance. Barlow is the daughter of two disabled Navy veterans and is the first in her family to attend law school. Prior to law school, she worked and volunteered for two summers with USC’s Upward Bound mentoring low-income minorities in the LA Unified School District and working to help them achieve acceptance into a four-year college or university. Her interest in intellectual property arose during her time as an undergraduate in Los Angeles, where she was surrounded and inspired by the industries of film, television, music, and dance, and other industries based in creative property. Barlow is currently a first-year law student at the University of Michigan Law School. She plans to combat underrepresentation in the corporate law field by becoming a corporate attorney and using her career as a platform to encourage other minorities and women to attend law school.

Malinda Bridges, Association of Corporate Counsel
University of Virginia School of Law

Malinda Bridges graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in justice studies from Rhode Island College in May 2012. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement, which is awarded to a graduating senior that displays exceptional leadership skills and concern for the community. Bridges developed an interest in law after studying the impact of law on race, gender, and socioeconomic issues and through writing her undergraduate thesis on the effects of legal approaches to prostitution. Bridges also cultivated her legal interest while interning at the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office and as a Congressional intern to Congressman Patrick Kennedy in Washington, D.C. She is a former Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Law Intern where she worked for Cravath, Swaine & Moore in the summer of 2012. Bridges is a first-year law student at the University of Virginia School of Law.
Christine Chan, Entergy Corporation
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Christine Chan graduated from Yale University in 2010 with a B.A. in classics. After graduating, Chan spent time working in the private sector while simultaneously volunteering as a Latin teacher at a local charter school. There, she launched and led an elective Latin language course for underprivileged students in the 4th and 5th grade as a way to teach English grammar through a contrastive study of Latin and Greek. In addition to her interests in education reform and linguistics, Chan is interested in Greco-Roman law and its influences on modern legal systems. She hopes to have an interdisciplinary law school experience, supplementing her legal studies with her continued pursuit of the classics. Chan is a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Kendell Coates, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
University of Chicago Law School

Kendell Coates graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University in 2012. Coates gained an interest in the law through his father, who is a public defender. Coates intends to continue making meaningful contributions to his community throughout his career as an attorney. He credits his family and faith for his values and work ethic. Coates is currently a first-year law student at the University of Chicago Law School.

Derrick Davis, Jr., Microsoft Corporation
Harvard Law School

Derrick Anthony Davis, Jr. graduated from Morehouse College in May 2012 with a B.A. in sociology. Davis was named 2011-2012 Morehouse College Senior of the Year and was the Top Ranking Scholar in the department of sociology. Davis is currently in his first-year at Harvard Law School. He spent the summer before law school as an SEO Corporate Law Scholar in New York. Beyond his interest for the law, Davis is passionate about youth mentoring, lifting as he climbs, and helping others in regards to law school admissions. Davis hails from Brooklyn, N.Y.
Celeste Jackson, Microsoft Corporation
Duke University School of Law

Celeste Jackson graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in political science and a minor in African and African-American studies. Prior to attending law school, Jackson spent a year in Israel as a Dorot fellow. There, she focused on issues of diversity, activism and coexistence. She further spent a year living in Cairo, Egypt, where she interned with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), assisting asylum seekers and refugees seeking to acquire their rights and protections in Egypt. She has always been interested in the law and accredits this interest to her parents, who dedicated their professional and personal lives to serving others, especially the underserved. Jackson seeks to expand her passion for service through the law. She hopes to find the nexus between her love for the law, travelling, culture, language and politics to best serve the U.S. and the world. Jackson is currently a first-year student at Duke University School of Law.

Luis Landeros, Baker Botts LLP
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Luis Landeros graduated from Stanford University in 2010 with a B.A. in political science and Spanish. Landeros is a first-generation Mexican-American and was the first of his family to graduate from a university. Landeros is currently a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Prior to attending law school, he assisted individuals and families with applying for public benefits as well as with obtaining access to pro bono legal representation. After law school, he desires to continue to serve as an advocate and a voice for his community.

Kelsey Leonard, Groom Law Group, Chartered
Duquesne University School of Law

Kelsey Leonard is the first Native American woman to graduate from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom where she received a master of science in water science, policy and management in 2012. She graduated with honors from Harvard University in 2010 with an A.B. in anthropology and sociology with a secondary field in ethnic studies. As a citizen of the Shinnecock Nation, she has been an advocate for tribal water management, and desires to use her environmental policy experience to develop sustainable natural resource and energy production in indigenous communities. Leonard is currently a first-year law student at Duquesne University School of Law.
Emily Ly, Robert Half Legal
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Emily Ly graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in media studies and minor in public policy in 2012 from the University of California, Berkeley. As an undergraduate, she was a research assistant at Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy studying the role of expertise on post-war U.S. regulatory policy. Her interests in law began after serving as an AmeriCorps’ JusticeCorps member to serve pro se litigants, many of whom were low-income and had limited English proficiency, in family and civil law matters at California Superior Court Legal-Access Centers. Ly is currently a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and is interested in business law, copyright and public policy.

Kathy Nguyen, Walmart Stores, Inc.
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Kathy Nguyen graduated with honors and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in philosophy from the University of California, Los Angeles. Nguyen was born to Vietnamese refugees who fled to the United States in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. As a Fulbright Scholar, she gained insight into women’s reproductive rights working with Marie Stopes International in Nha Trang, Vietnam. Her passion for advocating for international women’s rights brought her to Malaysia, where she worked with the Sabah Women’s Action-Resource Group (SAWO), an NGO dedicated to fighting violence against women. She has also represented SAWO at the United Nations NGO Consultation meetings. Nguyen desires to continue to work in the realm of international law and is committed to making an impact on women’s rights. The UCLA Law Fellows Program helped prepare her for a career in law, and Nguyen is currently a first-year law student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Ingrid Perez, Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Ingrid Perez graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University in 2011. A Cuban émigré, Perez was awarded the Elliott School Undergraduate Fellowship to conduct research for her senior honors thesis on U.S. Immigration Policy toward Cuba. She interned at Barclays Capital, RBC Wealth Management and the American Bar Association. After graduation, she worked in structured finance with Latin American companies in Miami. Perez plans to pursue a career in corporate law and hopes to contribute to Cuba’s evolving socio-political and economic landscape. In her spare time, Perez enjoys salsa dancing and English horseback riding. She is currently a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.
Andre Scott, DuPont Company  
University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison

Andre Scott graduated cum laude with a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of California, Riverside. After working in corporate finance for seven years, Scott decided to apply his work experience in a legal capacity. Scott credits his participation in the UCLA Law Fellows and Council for Legal Education Opportunity Programs as significant factors equipping him to succeed in law school. He is a first-year law student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Law and is interested in intellectual property and sports law.

Anthony Pettes, King & Spalding LLP  
Duke University School of Law

Anthony Pettes graduated from Duke University in 2001 with a B.S.E. in mechanical engineering and a B.A. in geology. After serving as a U.S. Marine in Iraq, Pettes graduated from Stanford University with an M.S. in mechanical engineering in 2007 and an M.S. in electrical engineering in 2010. As a registered patent agent, Pettes enjoys working with clients to protect their inventions and aims to become a patent attorney after law school. Pettes, who hails from Douglas, Arizona, is a proud husband and father of three, and is currently a first-year law student at Duke University School of Law.

Victoria White, Walmart Stores, Inc.  
Harvard Law School

Victoria White graduated magna cum laude from Spelman College in 2008 with a B.A. in comparative women's studies. After graduating, she pursued non-profit work with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in Washington, D.C. While at the CBCF, White focused her efforts on fostering civic engagement and educational opportunities for emerging minority leaders. She also cultivated a mentoring series aimed at bridging the gap between young and seasoned women in the professional world. White is a first-year law student at Harvard Law School where she plans to pursue intellectual property law, specifically centered on emerging forms of digital media. Upon graduation, she hopes to fuse her passion for advocacy and her love of music by starting a music-consulting firm aimed at creating a platform for substantive music to be heard around the world and advocating for the preservation of music programs in public schools. Victoria's ultimate goal is to serve as president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

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