Presenting the 2013 MCCA Lloyd M. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship Program Recipients*

Chike Achebe, MCCA Scholar
Harvard Law School

Chike Achebe is a native of Newark, N.J. and graduated from Rutgers University with honors in a B.A. in political science and organizational leadership. His interest lies in the intersection of law and business and how the two can be effectively applied to improve low-income communities. Having started a nonprofit organization and various other school organizations while at Rutgers University, Achebe was recognized as a student leader with a strong record of community service. He is currently a first-year law student at Harvard Law School.

Tori Anderson, Nationwide
Harvard Law School

Tori Anderson graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in political science and a minor in creative writing. She worked for two years at an education tech start-up in Mountain View, Calif. Anderson maintained the company’s social media, scholarship outreach and data management initiatives. She worked as a research assistant for a professor at Portland State University’s Graduate School of Education. She hopes to use her background in education and advocacy to help clients access legal resources. Anderson is currently a first-year law student at Harvard Law School.

Allison Aguirre, MCCA Scholar
University of Southern California School of Law

Allison Castellanos Aguirre earned her magna cum laude double major B.A. in political science and communication in 2013 from the University of Southern California. She became interested in law when she was an intern in the civil/small claims department at the Orange County Superior Court. Additionally, she also became interested in public relations while interning at the British Broad Casting Company. As a first generation Mexican-American Law student, she hopes to combine both her interest in media consumption and public policy to help advance minority representation in the mass media. Aguirre is a law student at the University of Southern California School of Law.
Yelena Bosovik, Robert Half International
University of Missouri School of Law

Yelena Petrvona Bosovik graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in finance and economics with emphasis on entrepreneurship and global studies from Drury University. In college, she held multiple leadership positions in campus and community organizations and served as the editor-in-chief of the Mirror, the campus newspaper, for two years. Bosovik is a first-generation college student whose family immigrated from Ukraine to the United States to escape religious persecution when she was eight-years-old. She is passionate about working with young women and founded a blog, Lovely Thoughts, for Christian twenty-somethings. Bosovik is currently a first-year law student at the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia, MO. She is interested in going into public service and practicing international corporate law.

Monica Bruzzio, Microsoft Corporation
New York University School of Law

Monica Bruzzio graduated cum laude with a B.A. in global studies in 2012 from the University of California, Los Angeles. As a first-generation Guatemalan-American, Bruzzio is interested in using her legal education and understanding of the struggles of the immigrant community to advocate for immigrants seeking residency in the United States. Bruzzio is currently a first-year law student at New York University School of Law.

Alice Chung, MCCA Scholar
Cornell Law School

Alice Chung graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in political science, minor in public policy, and certificate in entrepreneurship & technology from the University of California, Berkeley. As a first generation American whose family were Vietnamese war refugees, Chung aspires to use her law degree to provide pro bono legal services for the Asian-Pacific American community and advocate for immigrants confronting language and cultural barriers. Chung is currently a first-year law student at Cornell Law School.
Chike Croslin, MCCA Scholar
Harvard Law School

Mr. Chike Croslin graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2011 with a B.A. in political science and a minor in institutional social analysis. As an undergraduate, he volunteered in Costa Rica, Argentina and Chile. He was the recipient of the Alumni and Friends of the LSE in the USA scholarship for 2011-2012, and graduated with distinction from the London School of Economics with an MSc in anthropology and international development in 2012. He served as a White House Intern in the Domestic Policy Council during the spring of 2013. Croslin is interested in law as an instrument of social change and hopes to use his legal skills to promote openness, equity, and democracy in social institutions—a goal for which he takes much inspiration from his grandfather, a flight surgeon for the all-black 332nd Fighter Group, the Tuskegee Airmen. He is currently a first-year law student at Harvard Law School.

Della Fok, MCCA Scholar
Harvard Law School

Della Fok graduated from Yale University in 2011 with academic distinction in political science and East Asian studies. As a first generation Asian-American, she and her family are from Hong Kong. Prior to law school, Fok studied abroad in China and worked at Goldman Sachs. She is currently studying at Harvard Law School.

Christopher Lee, Walmart
Yale Law School

Christopher Lee graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in political science. He developed an interest in the law through various experiences in both the public and private sectors, and hopes to build a career at the intersection of law, business and policy. As a first-generation college graduate, he hopes to help underrepresented communities develop economically and improve access to healthcare and education. Lee is currently a first-year law student at Yale Law School.
Colinford Mattis, Microsoft Corporation
New York University School of Law

Colinford Mattis graduated in 2010 from Princeton University with a B.A. in sociology and certificates in African-American studies and urban studies. Raised in Brooklyn, New York to Jamaican and Vincentian parents, Mattis is a first-generation college graduate. Prior to law school, Mattis joined Teach For America in New Orleans where he served as a middle school math and science teacher, coached football and started a mentorship program. He also worked as a consultant in the home mortgage regulation space and as a legislative aid to a Colorado state senator working on education and finance policy. Mattis is currently a first-year law student at New York University School of Law. He is interested in providing legal counsel to business enterprises and helping to cultivate social enterprise as a driver of urban and economic development.

Dennise Martinez, MCCA Scholar
University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

Dennise Martinez graduated with high college honors and cum laude with a B.B.A. in business administration from the University of Notre Dame. But, most importantly, she was a first-generation college graduate from a family of Mexican immigrants. As a senior, she was the recipient of the William G. Barth Award, a postgraduate scholarship for business students dedicated to public service. She subsequently became a 2011 Teach for America alumnus, completing her service in her hometown region in Southern Texas. Martinez’s upbringing in an impoverished latino neighborhood and the myriad of injustices her family, community members, and her students have suffered because of their race and legal status were the impetus for her enrollment in law school. Through her legal work, she desires to protect the rights and needs of underprivileged and underrepresented populations by creating opportunities for their upward mobility in society. Martinez is currently a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

Nicolas Molina, MCCA Scholar
Yale Law School

Nicolas Molina, Jr. graduated summa cum laude from the University of California, Los Angeles where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received college honors upon graduation with a B.A. in history. He is a native of California, born to immigrant parents. He is a first-generation college student that seeks to marry his passion of helping people with the law. Molina is currently a first-year law student at Yale Law School.
Daniel Pyon, MCCA Scholar
Harvard Law School

Daniel Pyon graduated summa cum laude from California State University at Los Angeles with a B.S. in business administration in 2012. As the son of immigrant parents, he grew up watching immigrant and working-class families struggle to achieve their dreams. Those experiences fueled his desire to volunteer within the community through tutoring, mentoring and various other opportunities. It also motivated him to get involved in student government at CSULA. As the vice president for finance in the student government, he was able to create a scholarship fund and develop programming to support the student body. During the year after graduation, he worked on President Obama’s re-election campaign as part of its data operation. Pyon is currently a first-year student at Harvard Law School and hopes to use his degree to improve the lives of people in the community that has taught and inspired him so much.

Salmah Rizvi, MCCA Scholar
New York University School of Law

Salmah Y. Rizvi doubled-majored in international relations and anthropology and minored in business entrepreneurship and management while at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. There, she founded the humanitarian relief organization Vision XChange. As a social entrepreneur, Rizvi united diverse walks of student life to raise awareness of injustices overseas and solicit funds for victims of economic, social and political oppression. She received her M.S. in foreign service and international security from Georgetown University and worked for the United States Department of Defense and Department of State. During her nine-year tenure, she tackled issues related to terrorist financing, human trafficking, counter-intelligence and nuclear proliferation. She also served as the first chairwoman of the Department’s Islamic Cultural Employee Resource Group. As a leader, she advocated for critical change with regard to educational diversity and inclusion efforts within the U.S. government. Externally, she published a number of high-profile opinion editorials for the American public on the positive roles played by Muslim Americans in the United States’ security regime post 9/11. She is currently a first-year law student at the New York University School of Law where she hopes to embark upon a career in international corporate law in way that serves both public and private sectors. Salmah is half-Guyanese and half-Pakistani. She serves as the 1L Representative for the Women of Color Collective at NYU Law.

Avion Tai, Microsoft Corporation
Harvard Law School

Avion Tai graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University in 2010 with a B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures. After graduation, she spent time teaching English on a Fulbright grant in the Amazonas, Brazil. Witnessing that the English language serves as a vehicle for social mobility for her indigent students spurred Tai’s interest in the law as another tool for providing equal access to opportunity for the underprivileged. Tai is currently a first-year student at Harvard Law School. She hopes to have a legal career serving the disadvantaged in both public interest and corporate settings. Regarding the latter, Tai would like to put her energies into pro bono initiatives and spend time working in a law firm’s regulatory practice representing tax-exempt entities such as social services agencies, cultural and educational organizations, and national and international public charities.

*The Biographies were provided by scholars upon their selections.