



## Presenting the 2015-2016 MCCA LMJ Scholarship Program Recipients



**Maria Adebayo- Microsoft Scholar**  
University of California-Berkeley

Maria Adebayo is a first-generation Nigerian who was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Hyattsville, Maryland and partly in Nigeria. Ms. Adebayo graduated with honors from The Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in international studies and sociology and a minor in Spanish for the Professions. Her interest in law arose when she was part of a pre-college leadership program at Princeton University called Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America. During her time as an undergraduate, Ms. Adebayo received the James Coleman Sociology Award and the Dean's Undergraduate Research Award. She also was the Brown Fellowship Recipient. Following graduation, she worked as an assistant paralegal at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP. Ms. Adebayo is a first-year law student at University of California, Berkeley, school of Law, where she currently serves as the 1L Representative of the Women of Color Collective. She is interested in providing legal counsel in the areas of public and private international law and human rights. She is dedicated to the legal development of emerging markets in Africa.



**Marina Bontkowski – MCCA Scholar**  
University of California-Berkeley

Marina Bontkowski graduated from Harvard College with an A.B. in psychology, certificate in mind, brain, and behavior, and citation in Spanish language. After working as an elementary school teacher for two years, she returned to school and received her MA in forensic mental health counseling and certificate in terrorism studies from CUNY-John Jay College. Bontkowski is a Cuban-American whose mother's family fled to the United States in 1961. Her interest in the law strengthened when she worked for four years assisting a forensic psychiatrist in evaluations for court, and saw first-hand the unequal treatment of minority defendants. She is interested in mass incarceration and health care law, but is exploring different fields as a first-year student at UC-Berkeley Law School. She continues her passion for community service through her participation in the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project and Juvenile Education Advocacy Project. Bontkowski is a member of La Raza and Boalt Hall's Women's Association, and she enjoys playing soccer on the intramural team in her free time.



**Antionette Carradine - MCCA Scholar**  
George Washington University

Antionette Carradine graduated cum laude from with a B.A. in history and a minor in pre-law from Eastern Nazarene College. Ms. Carradine seeks to make an impact in impoverished communities and become a legal advisor to urban businesses and development; she also seeks to become an advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves and a mentor to the youth of urban communities. She is currently a first-year law student at The George Washington University Law School.



2015



**Shundra Nicole Crumpton – Walmart Scholar**

Vanderbilt University

Shundra Nicole Crumpton graduated from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in English and a minor in corporate strategy. Her interest in law arose when she worked as a janitor at a law firm during high school. Ms. Crumpton strives to increase diversity in the legal field and other professional arenas. In alignment with this mission, she created an online network of over 100 diverse women who are interested in law. Her interests in inclusion and diversity initiated her desire to practice labor and employment law. Ms. Crumpton is currently a first-year law student at Vanderbilt Law School.



**Miguel Eduardo Del Mundo-MCCA Scholar**

Pepperdine University

Miguel Eduardo Del Mundo graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in political science and a B.S. in public policy and public management from the University of Southern California. As a first-generation immigrant from Southeast Asia, he was raised in a multi-cultural household and grew up in diverse environments. His interest in law arose out of his experience as a Public Policy Institute of America (PPIA) Fellow at Princeton University. In 2010, despite having an academic background in public policy, he wanted to enhance his business skills in a corporate environment and worked for a Fortune 500 company aiding in meeting their regulatory mandates and eventually was bestowed a corporate title. Mr. Del Mundo is a first-year law student at Pepperdine University Law School.



**Destiny Dike-Groom Law Scholar**

New York University

Destiny Dike is a first-generation Nigerian-American. She graduated with honors from Baylor University with a B.B.A in accounting and from The Johns Hopkins University School of Education with an M.S. in education. Miss Dike learned the value of mentoring relationships while crafting her honors thesis analyzing the effectiveness of interracial faculty-student mentoring relationships on the retention of minority populations. She served as an Academy of Leadership Development & Civic Engagement Fellow, connecting 32 inmates of the local juvenile detention center to undergraduate and graduate student mentors. As a Delegate for the Big XII Council on Black Student Leadership, Miss Dike coordinated mentors for over 400 minority admitted students before they commenced their undergraduate careers. As a Teach For America corps member and district faculty advisor, she taught high school math in the Fifth Ward of Houston, Texas, and organized professional development opportunities for over 250 new teachers in the Houston, Dallas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina regions. Her interest in the law developed as an undergraduate, interacting with corporate leaders positively impacting marginalized communities in the states and abroad. She desires to counsel corporations on how best to build mentoring relationships with small business owners and use social enterprise to catalyze urban and economic development. Ms. Dike is a first-year law student at New York University School of Law.



2015



**Alexandria Gilbert-Microsoft Scholar**

Stanford University

Alexandria Gilbert graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.A. in American studies in 2014 and with an M.A. in American studies in 2015. While at UA, her heavy involvement in microfinance for small business owners in the Black Belt region of Alabama sparked an interest in the study of the law. Ms. Gilbert is currently a first-year student at Stanford Law School.



**Steven Lewis Morris Jr.- MCCA Scholar**

University of Virginia

Steven Lewis Morris Jr. graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in political science and a minor in African and African American Studies. As an African-American first-generation college graduate, his desire is to continue to be an advocate and mentor for minority, low-income, and first generation students by using firsthand knowledge and experience coupled with working in these communities. Mr. Morris is a first-year law student at the University of Virginia, School of Law and he is interested in providing legal counsel in the areas of law that unite to serve the sports and entertainment industries.



**Claudia Ojeda- Microsoft Scholar**

George Washington University

Claudia Ojeda graduated cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.A. in criminology and law and a minor in philosophy. Ms. Ojeda is a first generation college graduate. In the summer of 2014, she interned with DLA Piper LLP at the firm's Chicago office, this internship helped solidify her interest in attending law school. The summer prior to law school, Ms. Ojeda was a part of the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) class of 2015, through this program she was able to work as a summer associate at Shearman & Sterling LLP in Washington, DC. Claudia is currently a first-year law student at The George Washington University.



2015



**Taylor (Padilla) Gibson-MCCA Scholar**

Boston College

Taylor (Padilla) Gibson, a Wyoming native, graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in family science and a minor in writing from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. Her interest in law began during a study abroad program at the University of Oxford where she partook in an International Human Rights Tutorial. Mrs. Gibson is a first-year student at Boston College Law School and is committed to promoting diversity within the legal profession.



**Joo Hyun Michelle Park-Chevron Scholar**

University of California-Berkeley

Michelle Park graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in economics in 2013. She worked for a human rights organization promoting religious freedom and assisting victims of persecution and discrimination. Ms. Park is a first-year law student at Berkeley Law. During her time at law school, she hopes to learn more about the topics of privacy, national security and counterterrorism.



**Brittany Alexis Porter-Robert Half Scholar**

Pepperdine University

Brittany Alexis Porter graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in business administration, and minors in political science and leadership studies, from Hampton University in 2013. During the summer of her junior collegiate year, Ms. Porter served as a congressional intern with the Congressional Black Caucus for Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24). This opportunity incited within her a passion for law and education reform. Post graduation, Brittany pursued her interest in education when she accepted an offer, for an Algebra I teaching position, with the Teach For America Dallas-Fort Worth 2013 Corps. Within that capacity, she used her background as a young educated minority to encourage her students to take a personal interest in their education. This resulted in her ranking among the top teachers in her school, and being nominated as a Dallas Community Champion when her students' standardized test performance ranked as the highest in the department, with a 30% increase in scores from the prior year. Currently, Ms. Porter is a first-year law student at Pepperdine University School of Law with aspirations to work in corporate law. At Pepperdine, Ms. Porter serves as the 1L Representative for the Black Law Students Association. Most recently, she has implemented a monthly diversity panel at her school to discuss current legal issues and decisions pertaining to race, religion and sexual orientation. Ms. Porter charges her peers to get a broader perspective on the issues in order to best serve a diverse clientele as future attorneys.



2015



### **Heidi Savabi-MCCA Scholar**

Northwestern University

Heidi Savabi graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. and honors in international relations and Latin American studies from the University of Miami. As the daughter of an Iranian refugee and a Spanish immigrant, Savabi feels strongly connected to immigrant rights and refugee protection. During college Savabi studied abroad for a semester each in Peru and Guatemala. In Peru, she worked at an orphanage for former trafficked child sex workers. In Guatemala Savabi worked as a research assistant on an immigration project at one of the most comprehensive archives in Central America. Savabi aspires to provide counsel in the fields of immigration and international human rights law. Savabi is currently a first-year law student at Northwestern University School of Law where she is on the executive board of Diversity Coalition and Northwestern University Human Rights Project.



### **Bianca Serrato-MCCA Scholar**

Northwestern University

Bianca Serrato graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012 with a B.A. in international studies and a B.A. in political science. She was a James Scholar in the LAS Honors Program and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society. Ms. Serrato is a first-generation American college graduate. Ms. Serrato is currently a first-year law student at Northwestern University School of Law. She aspires to work on social enterprise transactions while continuing her involvement in immigration-related pro bono work and educational initiatives focused on assisting first-generation students like herself pursue their educational goals after graduating.



### **Leah Wong-Pitney Bowes Scholar**

University of Pennsylvania

Leah Wong graduated from the University of California San Diego with a B.A. in political science with minors in business and law & society. Ms. Wong is the oldest out of five children, a first-generation Asian American, and the first to graduate from higher education in her family. Before attending law school, she served an AmeriCorps year with the Office of the San Diego County District Attorney. This summer, Ms. Wong will be interning with the United Nations in Geneva, specifically for the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights overseeing countries in the Asia Pacific Region. Ms. Wong is a first-year law student the University of Pennsylvania Law School. At school, she is involved with the American Constitution Society, the International Human Rights Advocates, and the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. She is passionate about working at the nexus of private, public, and social sectors to find innovative and sustainable solutions to the institutional injustices that still plague our society. Ms. Wong hopes to lead in both the legal industry and maybe government as someone who is endlessly dedicated to demolishing barriers to economic, political, social, educational and health opportunity for marginalized communities.