Presenting the 2016-2017 MCCA LMJ Scholarship Program Recipients

Oluchi Vivian Anyagaligbo – LMJ MCCA Scholar
George Washington University Law School

Oluchi Vivian Anyagaligbo graduated cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science and a minor in Classical Studies. Ms. Anyagaligbo is of Nigerian descent and her interest in the legal field is attributable to her bicultural experience. It was through this experience she learned of the marginalization of women in Africa. She strives to work in an International legal capacity where she is able to combine the aspects of Nigerian and American cultural philosophies to develop meaningful, legal solutions. Ms. Anyagaligbo is a first-year law student at the George Washington University Law School.

Samantha Bollers – LMJ Walmart Scholar
Howard University School of Law

Samantha Bollers graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Political Science, and a minor in Law & Society. She immigrated to the United States from Guyana at fourteen years old for better educational opportunities, and is a first-generation college graduate. While attending college, she interned at the United States House of Representatives, which bolstered her preexisting interest in the law. After graduating from college, she worked as a paralegal for three years. In addition to confirming her passion for the law, this experience solidified her decision to attend law school after she witnessed the under representation of minority females in the legal field. She aspires to contribute to the diversification of the legal field by using her career as a platform to encourage other minorities and women to attend law school. Ms. Bollers is currently a first-year student at Howard University School of Law, and she will be a Summer Associate with Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Washington, DC.

Joy Chang – LMJ MCCA Scholar
Loyola Law School

Joy Chang graduated Magna Cum Laude from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.S. in Business Administration. While she was an undergraduate, she served as the President of the Alpha Lambda Honor Society, Vice President of the Golden Key Honor Society, and Associate Justice of the student government. Ms. Chang’s interests in the law arose from her own experiences as a first-generation Taiwanese immigrant through which she was exposed to the larger social injustices in the immigrant community. She interned at the Pomona Court House Self-Help Center through the JusticeCorps program to provide free legal services to help the underprivileged and immigrant communities gain access to the legal system. She is passionate about working as an advocate in advancing rights for immigrants and marginalized communities. She hopes to use her cultural background and language skills to provide legal counsel in the areas of immigration, public interest, contract law, and intellectual property law. Ms. Chang is currently a first-year law student at Loyola Law School.
Breanna Nicole Costner – LMJ MCCA Scholar
University of Georgia School of Law

Breanna Nicole Costner graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Prelaw and Human Development and Family Sciences in 2016 from the University of Georgia. Ms. Costner is a first-generation college and law student who has worked extremely hard to achieve her current level of success. She has played a role in diversity by starting her own program in local elementary schools where she teaches Spanish, and has also interned in the immigration department of a corporate law firm for three summers throughout college. These experiences further positioned her to help those who want to immigrate to the United States, and to be a voice for the underprivileged by using her personal and legal knowledge of immigration procedures. Ms. Costner is currently a first-year law student at the University of Georgia School of Law and wishes to pursue her passions by providing legal counsel in the areas of corporate law to those who come from diverse backgrounds.

Paola Eisner – LMJ Microsoft Scholar
Harvard Law School

Paola Eisner is a first-generation Argentinian-American from Texas. She graduated magna cum laude with a triple major, earning her B.A. from Brown University in Environmental Studies and International Relations and her B.F.A. in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design. Ms. Eisner is passionate about the importance of the rule of law as well as protecting human rights, particularly environmental rights. As an undergraduate, Ms. Eisner was a Summer and Winter Clerk for the U.S. State Department Office of the Legal Adviser and a Legal Clerk for the Rhode Island Attorney General. She continues to be dedicated to environmental advocacy through the Human Rights Advocates student practice organization. She represents her section in the HLS Student Government and is involved in a variety of affinity and practice-related student groups, in addition to working as a research assistant at the HLS Immigration and Refugee Clinic and a representative for the HLS Office of Sustainability. She is currently working on Fierce Femmes, a children’s book on strong women role models throughout history. Ms. Eisner is currently a first-year law student at Harvard Law School. She will be working on litigation at the California Attorney General’s Office in Oakland in summer of 2017.

Kenneth S. Guerra – LMJ MCCA Scholar
Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Kenneth S. Guerra graduated with honors from Indiana University Bloomington with a B.S. in Microbiology. As a first generation, Mexican-American student, Mr. Guerra is committed to fighting social injustice. As an undergraduate, he studied the African diaspora and trans-Atlantic slave trade while abroad in West Africa. He also led global health brigades, bringing medicine and clean water to impoverished communities across Central and South America. To further enhance his microbiology curriculum, Mr. Guerra worked as an undergraduate research associate at the IU School of Medicine, IU Department of Chemistry, and IU Kelley School of Business. While conducting research in the business school, he became passionate about the nexus of life-sciences, corporate business, and law. Before law school, Mr. Guerra worked as a law intern at Carlson Caspers in Minneapolis, MN and as an ICLEO Fellow with the Indiana Supreme Court. Mr. Guerra is a first-year law student at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, and he will be a Summer Associate at Tilleke & Gibbins Consultants Limited in Hanoi, Vietnam.
Isaiah Jeremy Marcano – LMJ MCCA Scholar
Cornell Law School

Isaiah Jeremy Marcano graduated from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Luso-Brazilian and International Studies. Mr. Marcano is of Puerto Rican descent and speaks fluent Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese. His interest in the law arose while working as an international arbitration paralegal at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP in New York. Mr. Marcano is a first-year law student at Cornell Law School, and is interested in developing a career in corporate law. He also looks forward to maintaining his commitment to pro bono efforts in domestic violence and immigration law.

Shaneel Myles – LMJ MCCA Scholar
University of Baltimore School of Law

Shaneel Myles graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Political Science. She developed an interest in the law through an undergraduate internship with a criminal practitioner while attending the University of Florida. During her internship, Ms. Myles was confronted with the chronic injustice in the legal field that favored clients who could obtain quality legal counsel. Seeking to further develop her growing passion, she interned with the Legal Aid Society in New York, researching wrongful conviction and the role of DNA in exonerating innocent imprisoned persons. Seeking to bridge her desire for the law with her newfound passion for working in urban communities, Ms. Myles knew it was the right time to apply to law school. She now attends the University of Baltimore School of Law where she desires to work in public defense, with interests in juvenile law, civil litigation, administrative law and death penalty issues.

Syeddah Naqvi – LMJ MCCA Scholar
University of California, Hastings

Syeddah Naqvi graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Political Science. Her interest in the law arose when she witnessed the injustices faced by underprivileged communities of color. One of her goals is to increase diversity and inclusion within the legal profession and to bridge gaps within society through a multifaceted legal career. She strives to defend those who do not have a voice, and to advocate for the rights of every individual by providing legal counsel in the areas of civil rights, immigration, employment, and taxation. Ms. Naqvi is a first year law student at University of California, Hastings.
Ngozi Osuji – LMJ MCCA Scholar
University of Chicago Law School

Ngozi Osuji graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Criminology and a B.S. in Political Science from Florida State University. Ms. Osuji is a first-generation Nigerian-American, who found her interest in the legal profession while visiting Nigeria and experiencing, firsthand, the downfall of the country and its legal system. Ms. Osuji hopes to use her law degree to influence corporate transactions in the international sphere, especially with developing nations. Ms. Osuji is a first-year law student at the University of Chicago Law School.

Priyank Patel – LMJ MCCA Board Scholar
University of California, Hastings

Priyank Patel graduated from UCLA with highest honors with a degree in Psychobiology. In a short time, Mr. Patel has worked in legal operations for several law firms, as well as top tier organizations such as Google, Apple, and the San Francisco 49ers. He also writes grants, and lobbies for funds for natural area restoration projects. Mr. Patel is motivated to use his background in science and experience working for high tech companies to study Intellectual Property and is excited for the future of this field. Mr. Patel is a first-year law student at University of California, Hastings.

Roberto Rodriguez-Orozco – LMJ Microsoft Scholar
UCLA School of Law

Roberto Rodriguez-Orozco graduated cum laude from University of California, Los Angeles with a B.A. in Political Science and minor in Chicana/o Studies. Mr. Rodriguez-Orozco is a first-generation Latino who was born and raised in Indio, California. His interest in law arose when he saw the need for a role model and legal assistance in the Coachella Valley. During his time as an undergraduate, Mr. Rodriguez-Orozco became part of the UCLA Law Fellows Program and was a scholar of the California Bar Foundation. After graduation, he worked as an Outreach Specialist at College of the Desert where he helped hundreds of first generation high school seniors enroll for college. He is interested in providing legal counsel in the areas of technology, employment, and education. Mr. Rodriguez-Orozco is a first-year law student at UCLA School of Law, where he currently serves as the 1L Representative of La Raza Law Student Association.
Ava Sanchez – LMJ Microsoft Scholar
University of Washington School of Law

Ava Sanchez graduated with honors from the University of California, Davis, receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in Spanish. Born and raised in Northern California, she is the first in her family to attend law school. Prior to law school, Ms. Sanchez worked at the California State Assembly, where she served as a Communications Director and Legislative Assistant. She worked in public policy advocating for underserved populations, specifically addressing higher education equity and health care access. She is a member of the Latino/a Law Students Association, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, and a board member on the Women’s Law Caucus. She continues to live out her passion for community engagement through her participation in the Immigrant Families Advocacy Project and the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington’s legal clinic. Ms. Sanchez continues to advocate for disadvantaged communities and is interested in providing legal counsel in human rights law, with a particular emphasis on women’s issues. Ms. Sanchez is currently a first-year law student at the University of Washington School of Law.

Anthony Alonso Tan – LMJ Robert Half Legal Scholar
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Anthony Alonso Tan graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. from the Louisiana State University Honors College. While enrolled, Anthony was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, completed an honors thesis on Max Weber’s political theory and its implications in the modern world, and was chosen as a keynote speaker for one of the university’s most prestigious leadership banquets. Anthony helped spearhead an annual Latin Performing Arts Night, a FIFA Tournament, the Adopt-a-Road initiative, and a Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF initiative that all successfully helped bridge the cultural divide between Latinos and the greater Baton Rouge community. As a student, Anthony worked as a server and private tutor to finance his education. When he was a junior, Anthony helped create a successful New Orleans real estate development company, T&T Real Estate Development, LLC, and during his year off before law school, he wrote a book – yet to be published – entitled, A Way with Words: Rethinking the College Essay. Currently, Anthony is enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he hopes to leverage his business savvy with his keen writing abilities to push the boundaries of what the law is and can become.

Katharine Wongmankitkan – LMJ MCCA Scholar
University of Idaho College of Law

Katharine Wongmankitkan graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.A. in International Studies and received numerous recognitions from the university. During her undergraduate studies, she developed a deep interest in law while learning about the political, social, and economic issues affected by the different legal systems of the world. As a first-generation Thai-American and college student, the inspiration of her parents’ hard work and determination further drives her to reach her highest potential. Ms. Wongmankitkan’s mother immigrated to the United States from Thailand to pursue the American Dream and after years of sacrifices.