



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

... dedicated to women's education since 1983

www.wlamfoundation.org

October, 2005

General Motors Joins Foundation in Scholarship Program, Making \$3,000 Awards to Five Outstanding Women Law Students

Five Outstanding Women Law Students will be the lucky recipients of new awards endowed by General Motors and the GM Legal Staff, beginning in 2006. Each will receive \$3,000 to be applied to tuition expenses, following a competitive process. General Motors becomes the second major corporate donor of such awards, in a partnership with the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation. The WLAM Foundation initiated a scholarship program in 1997, making five awards of \$500 each. With addition of the new GM Awards, the program will award over \$50,000 to twenty women law students in 2006.

"General Motors really stepped up to the plate," according to WLAM Foundation Chair Dawn Van Hoek. Van Hoek credits the determination of the Foundation's Fundraising Co-Chair, Charlotte Johnson, and the vision of new Foundation Board member, Sharon Hatchett, who has worked at GM since 1981 (see separate profile). "These are women with a will," says Van Hoek, "and it includes empowering women to finish their legal educations and continue their leadership activities." The new GM Awards include as application criteria not only academic achievement, but a "commitment to diversity in the legal profession through consistent personal conduct demonstrating respect for and valuing of individual differences."

Chris Johnson, GM North America Vice President & General Counsel, says of the new awards:

I'm very excited that we are able to offer these scholarships in association with the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation. General Motors, and the GM Legal Staff, have been at the forefront in the pursuit of increased diversity in higher education, particularly in our law schools. This scholarship program for outstanding female law students is just one more way for GM to extend its commitment to diversity.

The WLAM Foundation thanks General Motors and the GM Legal Staff for launching such generous awards!

Scholarships to Top \$50,000 in 2006!

With the addition of General Motors and the GM Legal Staff, the WLAM Foundation's 2006 Awards to Outstanding Women Law Students will exceed \$50,000, a new record. Twenty women will receive awards next spring, following a highly competitive application process. In 2005, nearly 100 applicants vied for the awards, which range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 each. The Foundation is assisted by committees at each law school, which devote considerable time and effort to publicizing the awards and screening applications. Each award category has unique application criteria, with leadership and commitment to women's and social issues among them.

Nine of the twenty awards are named for the Foundation itself, and are funded through donations from individuals, law firms and corporations. These "Foundation Scholars" each receive \$2,000. The Howard & Howard Community Reinvestment Fund awards \$2,500 to an outstanding woman law student attending the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Howard & Howard was the first firm to make a large ongoing gift for such awards, through the partnership with the WLAM Foundation.

Ford Motor Company Fund Scholars, one at each law school, each receive a \$3,000 award. Ford has made this generous commitment for five years running! Dolores Nunez Studier, a Ford attorney, serves on the WLAM Foundation Board.

Students apply each year by October 15th, and awardees are chosen by the Foundation Board in January. The 2006 Outstanding Women Law Students will be feted at the Foundation's March 9, 2006 Awards Reception at St. John Center in Plymouth. More information about the awards and annual reception appears on the Foundation's web page, www.wlamfoundation.org.

Mitzy Sharp Futro Awarded 2006 Ford Mentium Scholarship



The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce that Kathleen Conklin will serve as the 2006 Ford Mentium 100 Awardee. Ms. Futro is the Director of the Nonprofit Services Program for the Volunteer Accounting Service Team of Michigan (VAST-MI), and is responsible for leadership, development and training on management of non-profit organizations. Before joining VAST-MI, she represented various non-profit clients as part of her private law practice, and worked as a staff attorney for Community Legal Resources in Detroit. Her goals as a Mentium participant are to develop leadership skills as to goal-setting and resource maximization during difficult times.

Ms. Futro receives a full scholarship from the Ford Motor Company Fund for her participation in Mentium 100, a nationally-recognized program that matches high potential women with more senior executive mentors from different backgrounds. Ms. Futro is the fourth recipient of the Ford/WLAMF Mentium award. The year-long program includes six half-day business forums, numerous meetings between mentors and mentees, and creation of a peer network with over 100 professional women. Its value for women lawyers of high potential is widely recognized.

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation administers funding of the annual Ford Mentium 100 Award, selecting an awardee who is a lawyer for a non-profit organization, with a minimum of six years of professional experience, demonstrated leadership capability, above-average performance, and proven commitment to her own growth. Ford's commitment to the education of women is demonstrated not only by this award, but also its generous support of the Foundation's annual awards to outstanding women law students. A total of \$19,000 was contributed by the Ford Fund and Ford Motor Company to WLAMF scholarships last year.

Save the Date: Annual Awards Reception Set for March 9, 2006

Please save the evening of Thursday, March 9, 2006 for the Annual Awards Reception of the WLAM Foundation. This is our time to introduce the 2006 Outstanding Women Law Students, twenty women who will receive over \$50,000 in award money in 2006. And, the Reception is also the Foundation's time to recognize and thank the donors who make these awards possible. The setting for the 2006 WLAMF Awards Reception is the St. John's Center, in Plymouth.

Sharon D. Hatchett and Liesl A. Maloney Join WLAM Foundation Board

The WLAM Foundation is pleased to welcome Sharon D. Hatchett and Liesl A. Maloney to its Board of Directors, composed of distinguished women lawyers from across Michigan. The Board sets policy for the Foundation, and makes financial awards to outstanding women law students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. The new Board members fill the seats left by retiring members Mary Barden and Kathleen Lang.



Ms. Hatchett has worked on the Legal Staff of General Motors Corporation since 1981, and currently handles complex transactions. During her career at GM, she has handled joint venture arrangements, divestitures, stock purchase agreements, debt restructurings, product development and supply arrangements, and transportation and purchasing matters. Ms. Hatchett brings a wealth of board experience to the WLAM Foundation, as she has served on the Chicago Bar Foundation Board, and more recently the Friends of Modern Art Board of the Detroit Institute of Arts.



Ms. Maloney is a partner at the law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, where her practice centers on intellectual property and technology, and corporate and securities. A cum laude graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, she was an editor of its Journal of Law Reform. Ms. Maloney was born in Wiesbaden, West Germany, and worked as a Bank Examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation following her graduation, magna cum laude, from Angelo State University.

Newsletter Contact

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WLAM Foundation Contributions

Do you know the power of a dollar contributed to the WLAM Foundation? Only pennies (generally, under 10% of money raised) go to administrative costs, and the rest goes directly into projects supporting women's education.

Contributions are made in several forms: fundraising events take place during the year, WLAM members exercise their "dues check-off" option, art prints are available any time, and firms and corporations take part in the annual Dean's List campaign. You can jump in right now through another popular option: use the contribution form in this newsletter to honor a special person or event. Whichever giving choice you make, we'll be sure to acknowledge your contribution here.

The Foundation Board thanks these generous donors who made recent tax-deductible contributions.

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Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

Your contribution is a way to recognize and honor special people and events. If you wish publication of the reason for your contribution, please provide it here:

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Please send this form and your check to:
WLAM Foundation
645 Griswold
3300 Penobscot Building
Detroit, MI 48226

If you wish to charge your contribution, please call 1-800-654-5959.

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Shirley Newman, Valerie Newman's mother, by Kimberly M. Cahill