



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

... dedicated to women's education since 1983

www.wlamfoundation.org

December, 2007

Awards Reception on March 18, 2008, will Feature Forumshoppers

The WLAM Foundation is pleased to announce that the popular Forum-shoppers, a quartet of talented singers led by Judge William Giovan of Wayne Circuit Court, will return to entertain those attending the Foundation's Annual Awards Reception. The Forum-



The Forumshoppers, led by Judge William J. Giovan (third from left), other members are: Euel Kinsey, Marvin Shupski and David Montera.

shoppers presented original songs last year that amused the crowd tremendously. Attendees of the event include law student awardees and their families, donors, and many prominent lawyers and judges. Please note that the date for

the reception has changed from the date originally published.

The Awards Reception will take place in the beautiful atrium of the St. John Conference Center, on the web at <http://www.stjohnsgolfconference.com/>. This venue, located at 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth, Michigan, is conveniently located near major freeways. It is well known for its excellent food and beautiful surroundings. The reception will take place on March 18th, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Admission for the Awards Reception is \$25, payable by check or credit card; reservations should be made by March 11, 2008. Please call Debbie at (734) 762-7260. Tax-deductible contributions to the WLAMF scholarship fund also are welcome: see www.wlamfoundation.org.

Words of Thanks From Prior Awardees

The WLAM Foundation often hears from awardees on the impact of scholarships they have received. Here are excerpts from comments made by 2007 awardees:

The support of the General Motors WLAM Scholars program is critical to me – and all the others you have supported – because every bit of financial support helps make the pursuit of public interest work possible. Moreover, encouragement from members of the legal community means a great deal; you legitimate public interest work, and you motivate me, and I'm sure other recipients, to work even harder. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jennifer Hill, General Motors Scholar, University of Michigan Law School

While attending law school I have been involved in several organizations that focus on community development and volunteering, including Students Helping Students Read, Student Board of Governors and the Black Law Students Association. I have also been involved in several volunteer projects, such as Comcast Cares Day events and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. In addition, I am currently a

student in the law school's Small Business and Non-Profit Clinic, and am providing free legal services to a local small business and non-profit organization. It is very comforting to know that businesses like Ford Motor Company are dedicated to uplifting the people and the community around them. By awarding me this scholarship, you are enabling me to concentrate more on schoolwork and community service without having to worry about finances.

Karissa Holmes, Ford Scholar, Wayne State University Law School

I have represented abused children who had been removed from their homes, victims of domestic violence seeking divorces or custody of their children, children with diseases or disabilities seeking government benefits, and low-income families in landlord-tenant disputes. The sheer volume and diversity of cases in the metro-Detroit area made me realize how prevalent these problems are, and how often women and children in particular are left to navigate the legal system alone.

*Amanda Dallo, WLAMF Scholar, University of Michigan Law School
(Continued on next page)*

This award is particularly meaningful to me as I struggle with the demands of a full-time job while attending law school in the evening. As I do not believe it particularly common that evening students are recognized for their achievements, I am exceptionally honored that I have been selected for this prestigious award.

Meredith Mullins, Ford Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy Law School

I will be graduating from law school in less than three months with a substantial amount of debt as a result of obtaining a law degree as well as ordinary living expenses incurred throughout the past three years. The impact of this award, however, goes farther than simply helping to relieve these financial obligations. This gracious monetary award has assured me that my efforts in law school have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Such honorable recognition encourages me, upon graduation, to utilize my abilities and to begin a new chapter in my life while confidently entering the working world.

Breanne M. Smith, WLAMF Scholar, University of Detroit Mercy Law School

Lori D. Becker Joins WLAM Foundation Board

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce that Lori D. Becker has joined its Board of Directors. Ms. Becker is the Managing Partner in a Novi law firm specializing in business law, contract negotiation, estate planning, real estate, family and criminal law. She teaches business law at Walsh College and Northwood University, and completed her Master of Business Administration degree while also attending law school at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Ms. Becker has worked for over eight years as an advocate with HAVEN, assisting domestic violence victims. As the 2006-07 Awardee of the Foundation's Ford Mentium grant, Lori developed leadership skills that support her collaborative approach to family law, particularly alternative dispute resolution as to divorce.



Lori D. Becker

Gift in Honor of:

A generous donation has been made in honor of **Markeisha Miner**, by the **Wolverine Bar Association**, which awarded Ms. Miner the 2007 Margrette A. Taylor Distinguished Young Lawyers Award. Ms. Miner was a 2002 Outstanding Woman Law Student Awardee of the WLAM Foundation. She is now an attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC, in Detroit.

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.

Amanda Bentley
Kelly Brushaber
Catherine Dritsas
Angela Davison
Janet E. Findlater
Hon. Elizabeth Gleicher
Hon. Susan H. Grant

Karen Smith Kienbaum
Katherine Lamb
Jody Lipton
Hon. Ann Mattson
Danielle A. Smith
Sharon Noll Smith

Contribution Form

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:

Contribution in honor of:

[please provide name or other details]

Donation amount: _____

Your name and address:

Honoree's name and address [so that we can acknowledge your gift]:

**Contributions to the Foundation
are tax-deductible.**

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

2008 "Dean's List" Campaign Underway

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation supports women's education through a vigorous "Dean's List" Fundraising Campaign each year. Those individuals, law firms and corporations making a contribution to the Foundation's scholarship fund in an amount over \$125 are recognized annually at the Foundation's Awards Reception. That reception is set for Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the St. John's Conference Center, in Plymouth.

To join this distinguished group, donors may contribute any of the following amounts:

Contribution amount:

_____ \$2,500 and above*	Summa Cum Laude (4 admissions to reception)
_____ \$1,000 to \$2,499	Magna Cum Laude (3 admissions)
_____ \$ 750 to \$999	Cum Laude (2 admissions)
_____ \$ 125 to \$749	Good Citizenship (1 admission)

**A three-year commitment to an annual gift over \$2,500 entitles donors to the special naming of the award, in their honor.*

A contribution to the WLAM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is tax-deductible.

Contributors should respond no later than March 11, 2008, to ensure inclusion in publicity for the Awards Reception. Checks should be payable to the "WLAM Foundation," and sent to Kimberly Cahill, WLAM Foundation, 24735 Van Dyke, Center Line, MI 48015.



Newsletter Contact

Dawn Van Hoek
dvanhoek@sado.org