



*Women Lawyers Association  
of Michigan Foundation*

*... dedicated to women's education since 1983*

[www.wlamfoundation.org](http://www.wlamfoundation.org)

November, 2003

## **Women Lawyers Foundation Announces 2004 Ford Mentium Awardee**

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce that Kathleen M. Allen will serve as the 2004 Ford Mentium 100 Awardee. Ms. Allen is a staff attorney for Western Michigan Legal Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her practice focuses on individual advocacy in consumer, family and civil litigation. Ms. Allen served as Legal Director to the Legal Assistance Center in Grand Rapids, from 2001 - 2002.

Ms. Allen 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. Allen is second 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 clear, according to the 2003 Ford/WLAMF Mentium Awardee, University of Michigan Dean of Students Charlotte Johnson. She recently observed that: "Mentium pairs you with a terrific mentor AND helps participants identify their strengths, weaknesses, core values and potential success inhibitors."

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 \$24,000 was contributed by the Ford Fund and Ford Motor Company to WLAMF scholarships last year.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know for the 2005 Ford/WLAMF Mentium Award, please mail or email a one-page letter of interest and resume to: Dawn Van Hoek, Chair, WLAMF, 3300 Penobscot, 645 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48230 or [dawn@sado.org](mailto:dawn@sado.org). Nominations are due by March 1, 2004.

If you have questions about the Mentium 100 program, please contact Lynn Busher at 248/685-1621. Questions about the application process should be directed to Mary Barden at 313/647-9620.

## **Ford Motor Company Fund: Ongoing Support for Women's Education**

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is very pleased to acknowledge the ongoing support shown by the Ford Motor Company Fund during 2003. The Fund's contribution of \$20,000 funded five awards of \$4,000 each to Outstanding Women Law Students at each of Michigan's accredited law schools. Awardees this year were Johanna Campbell (Cooley Law School), Laurie Carafone (University of Michigan Law School), Angelita Martinez (Wayne State University Law

School), Cathy A. Raidna at Michigan State University Detroit College of Law, and Kelly A. Walters (University of Detroit Mercy School of Law). Each student possessed good academic standing, and demonstrated capabilities in the areas of leadership, community service, and potential for advancing the position of women in society.

"Ford Motor Company and the Ford Fund have shown extraordinary support for the Foundation's work

over the years," according to the Foundation's Chair, Dawn Van Hoek. "Ford clearly encourages women to develop their leadership potential while working on issues of significance to women in society," she added. Dennis Ross, Ford Motor Company's General Counsel, has shown a particular interest in the award project, appearing at a special luncheon hosted by the Ford Women's Professional Network in 2003. In addition to the Ford Fund contribution earmarked for student awards, the Fund underwrites an annual Mentium award (see related article). An annual gift from Ford Motor Company also underwrites a reception for the student awardees, held each spring.

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation (WLAMF) awarded a record amount of over \$40,000 in 2003 to a total of sixteen Outstanding Women Law Students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. Just five years ago, the Foundation made modest awards of \$500 to five students; the dramatic increase is attributable to the generosity of donors and the merits of students chosen. Hundreds of individual contributors remember the WLAM Foundation each, and several corporate and law firm contributors have made a major difference.

## WLAM Foundation Launches 2004 Dean's List Campaign

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan has launched its 2004 Dean's List Campaign, raising funds for awards to be made in spring of 2005. The campaign spans the calendar year, allowing donors to make year-end contributions if they wish. Law firms, corporations, foundations, and individuals have given generously in the past, underwriting awards that totaled over \$40,000 in 2003. Fifteen law students received the 2003 Outstanding Women Law Student Awards, given on the basis of demonstrated leadership on and commitment to women's issues. Members of the Dean's List are recognized at the WLAM Foundation's Spring Awards Reception, as well as in numerous announcements throughout the year.

This year, the effort will be aided by the "Friends of the WLAM Foundation," a special group of supporters willing to contact others on behalf of the Foundation. If you are willing to show an extra measure of support by contacting others, please call Foundation Trustee Mary Barden at (313) 647-9620. If you are contacted by a "Friend," please be generous! Supporters are reminded that virtually every penny goes right into the awards, as the Foundation's volunteer board is dedicated to keeping its fundraising costs very low.

A form for making a donation to the Dean's List Campaign appears at [www.wlamfoundation.org/deansform2004.pdf](http://www.wlamfoundation.org/deansform2004.pdf). Donors will be in excellent company, as can be seen from the 2003 Dean's List of Donors:

### **Gold Key (\$24,000)**

Ford Motor Company Fund

### **Summa Cum Laude (\$2,500 or more)**

Howard & Howard Community Reinvestment Fund

### **Magna Cum Laude (\$1,000 to \$2,500)**

Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC

Bodman, Longley & Dahling, LLP

Dickinson Wright, PLLC

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Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC

Ford Motor Company

Schoenherr & Cahill, PC

Macomb Region, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Wayne Region, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

### **Cum Laude (\$750 to \$999)**

Masco Corporation

Standard Federal Bank

### **Good Citizenship (\$100 to \$749)**

Adkinson Need PLLC

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Women's Bar Association

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Lorraine Weber

## From Our Student-Awardees

This just in from **Barbara Byrum-Delaney**, one of the WLAM Foundation's 2003 Outstanding Women Law Students attending Michigan State University Detroit College of Law:

*Thank you all so much for the WLAMF scholarship and for the wonderful event you put on in March. The Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn was a wonderful location for the reception. And the speaker, Daniel G. Mulhern, was excellent and very motivational.*

*Thank you all so much for the scholarship. I used it toward my summer 2003 tuition bill. Thank you also for the WLAM pin; I wear it with great pride.*

*I look forward to future WLAM events and toward becoming a member of this dynamic group.*

**Johanna Campbell**, a 2003 Outstanding Woman Law Student attending Thomas M. Cooley Law School, wrote:

*I am so honored, and I appreciate what the scholarship is doing for all of us. I am especially thankful for the scholarship this term, as I will be able to take summer classes instead of working, which will put me that much closer to graduation. And the sooner I graduate, the sooner I can start my journey in improving how the legal system treats domestic violence victims.*

## WLAM Foundation Trustees 2003 - 2004

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## Honorary Gifts to the Foundation

The Foundation received generous gifts in honor of the following persons and events:

In memory of the **Honorable Geraldine Bledsoe Ford**, by **Carole L. Chiamp**, who observed:

"[Judge] Ford helped more young women lawyers than one can count. I know because I was among them."

### Newsletter Contact

**Dawn Van Hoek, [dvanhoek@comcast.net](mailto:dvanhoek@comcast.net)**

## WLAM Charity Dinner Dance Benefits WLAM Foundation, Child's Hope

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan hosted its 3rd Annual Charity Dinner Dance at the Sheraton Detroit in Novi on November 15, 2003, raising a significant amount for both the WLAM Foundation and Child's Hope, a Wayne County program that educates parents and children about child abuse prevention. The Foundation will use its donation to underwrite awards to outstanding women law students at Michigan law schools. More than one hundred supporters enjoyed the evening of good food and dancing.

The success of the Dinner Dance was due in large part to the efforts of its chair, Foundation Trustee and former WLAM President Laura Canfield. Generous sponsors included the law firms of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, Dykema Gossett, Garan Lucow, Bigler, Berry, Johnston, Szykiel & Hunt, Plunkett Cooney, York & Tiderington, Mallory, Cunningham, Lapka & Scott, and Smith Bovill. Their contributions were joined by significant donations from the Wayne and Washtenaw Regions of WLAM and members Evanne Dietz and Rubina Mustafa.

## Contribution Form WLAM 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:

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