

# 2009–2010 ABA YLD Scholars

Each year the ABA YLD awards a number of scholarships to encourage the participation of minority, solo/small firm, government, and military service attorneys in the ABA Young Lawyers Division. This year we are excited to have these Scholars involved with the ABA YLD.



## **Ernestina Cruz, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Named the “Young Lawyer of the Year” by the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association, Tina Cruz is a partner at the Narvaez Law Firm, P.A. in Albuquerque, New Mexico. With over eight years experience in civil defense litigation, her law practice has concentrated in the areas of employment, civil rights, education law, and insurance defense. She represents public entities and corporations in New Mexico’s federal and state courts and employers at the administrative level before the New Mexico Human Rights Bureau, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the City of Albuquerque’s Human Rights Office. In addition, Ms. Cruz has handled appeals before the New Mexico Court of Appeals and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico (B.A. in Political Science/Spanish and J.D.) and the University of Notre Dame (M.A. in Government and International Relations). She is a member of numerous boards, including the State Bar of New Mexico’s Young Lawyers Division, the University of New Mexico School of Law Alumni Board, and the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners. Ms. Cruz hails from a rural community in northern New Mexico’s Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



## **Shontrai Irving, Crown Point, Indiana**

Greetings Fellow YLD Members! I am a 2003 Graduate of the Indiana University School of Law and am presently an attorney for State Farm Litigation Counsel in Crown Point, Indiana. I am a resident of Gary, Indiana, and my primary area of practice is insurance defense litigation.

I am very committed to public service and believe that we have a responsibility to give back to our communities. I am presently a foster parent to six beautiful children and do my part to make a difference every day.

My personal motto is from Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, who stated: “None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony, or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots.”

I applied to be a Scholar because I wanted to become more active in the ABA. Moreover, I wanted to grow and develop with the best and brightest attorneys in our country.



## **Tiffany D. Russell, Durham, North Carolina**

It is with great honor that I am able to represent the ABA YLD as a 2009–2010 Scholar. I anticipate taking this opportunity to new heights. Meeting so many people from different backgrounds, CHARGED ME UP! I am looking forward to making lasting relationships and leadership moves within the ABA YLD.

Since I opened my own practice, I have learned so many things. Interacting with other solo attorneys during the Fall Conference was amazing. To know I am

not alone and that greatness is near, provides a burst of energy and motivates me to want more. My firm’s mission is to provide clients with a network of innovative legal solutions, excellent legal representation, and a dedication to quality customer service. I know this organization can help me pursue greater heights personally and professionally while allowing me to stay aligned with my motto: INTEGRITY IS KEY!



## **Edward L. Wright, Jr., Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

I’m looking forward to an exciting and motivating year as a YLD Scholar. The opportunity to network with young lawyers from around the country and write articles for *The Affiliate* is invaluable.

I am an Assistant D.A. for Milwaukee County in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Everyday that I enter the courtroom is a different experience. Work isn’t work when there is always something interesting and different to learn. It’s a learning experience.

My trial approach has been 100% successful to date. I prepare for a trial a week or two ahead of time, but on the day the trial begins, I play Jay-Z’s *Moment of Clarity*. He gets me focused. I treat everyday in court like it was my first day, like I was an intern; I stay hungry, stay learning. That way I always stay on my toes.



## **Angela Scott, Windsor Mill, Maryland**

*“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”* Unknown.

By helping to protect and promote the rights of all individuals, through my career and my volunteer work, these are words I strive to live by. I’ve been working with civil and human rights related issues since college and I am proud to say that I’ve been practicing in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for over five years.

As a Scholar, I am looking forward to advancing the ABA YLD public service civil rights project, *They Had A Dream Too*. I’m also honored to serve as a Member of the ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law and the ABA YLD Liaison to the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section.

I’m looking forward to meeting you, working with you, and making a difference. It’s going to be a great year!



## **Susan Park, New York, New York**

Susan Park graduated with a J.D. from Stanford Law School and a B.A. in English Literature and Political Science from Stanford University. In law school, she was the captain of one of the Stanford Law School Mock Trial teams. Susan is an Assistant District Attorney for the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office and prosecutes misdemeanor cases in Kings County Criminal Court. Previous to her position as an Assistant District Attorney, she worked for two years at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP as a Litigation Associate handling civil litigation matters. As an Assistant District Attorney, she prosecutes cases ranging from driving under the influence, assaults, domestic violence, child stalking, and larceny. In her free time, she loves horseback riding, museums/galleries, fiction, and beaches.

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## David H.K. Nguyen, Indianapolis, Indiana

I am currently in private practice specializing in business transactions and other areas of law. I obtained my B.S. in Education, M.B.A., and J.D., all from Indiana University. In 2007–2008, I was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar and obtained my LL.M. Adv. in European Business Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

I enjoy traveling, seeing new things, meeting new people, and making a difference in the communities of which I am a member. I was involved with the ABA Law Student Division while in law school in a variety of capacities. I am also highly involved in my local bar associations, having served on the Indianapolis Bar Association's Diversity Task Force in addition to other capacities. Currently, I serve on the City of Indianapolis's Public Safety Personnel Diversity Task Force.

From my experience as an ABA YLD Scholar, I hope to meet and get to know fellow colleagues from different parts of the country who work in a variety of practice areas. I look forward to becoming more involved with the ABA and making lifetime friendships and connections.



## Ebony McCain, St. Louis, Missouri

I am a 2003 graduate of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. I currently live in St. Louis, Missouri, with my husband, Kenneth, and practice in the areas of employment litigation and immigration compliance. As an ABA YLD Scholar, I will serve on the Affiliate Assistance Team's Website Content Subcommittee. I became a Scholar so that I can become more involved in the ABA and meet other young lawyers from across the country.

I am also very active in my local and state bar associations. In 2007–2008, I was a member of the Missouri Bar Leadership Academy where we produced a public service announcement in support of Missouri's Non-Partisan Court Plan. I am currently President-Elect of the Mound City Bar Association, the oldest black bar association west of the Mississippi River. My term as President will begin in July 2010. I enjoyed attending our Fall Conference in Birmingham and have started planning my trip to Orlando.



## Bill Ferreira, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

Originally from South Florida, and after several years in the Northeast, I can now say that I have fully acclimated to the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. Looking back on a year filled with changes in practice setting, home renovations, and wedding plans, one thing I can say is that it certainly

has been anything but boring. This year I find myself becoming more involved with volunteer organizations, including many minority bar associations, and taking on an increased role in the leadership of those groups. I find the investments of time and energy both rewarding and inspiring as I get to be a part of the great things made possible because of the many talented people involved in those groups.

My goals this year are to heighten the awareness and support of diversity initiatives and to create synergies among the bar associations and groups within the ABA. I look forward to a year filled with challenges and opportunities to further develop both personally and professionally. Most of all, I anticipate another great year of making lasting connections with friends and colleagues. See you soon.



## Lacy L. Durham, Dallas, Texas

I'm native of Louisiana who has the "best job" in the profession. As a tax consultant at Deloitte Tax, LLP I have the opportunity to advise businesses on practical issues that affect their employees. It's a great feeling when at the end of my workday I know I've helped the everyday person. Beyond my job, my bar and community are important to me. I've been very active in every aspect. I'm super excited about being an ABA YLD Scholar and plan to take my involvement further.

Okay, so I'll tell you a secret—I have a ridiculous love for all of the arts! In fact, I would love to learn how to play the acoustic guitar, but I am musically challenged. I hope to use my passion for the arts to improve educational equality in the United States, especially in urban districts. In my free time, I enjoy watching "kiddie TV" with my nieces and rooting for the Saints.



## Dolores Dorsainvil, Hyattsville, Maryland

Hello! I am a 2000 graduate from American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. I am admitted to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia and work as a Senior Staff Attorney with the D.C. Office of Bar Counsel, where I investigate and prosecute cases of ethical misconduct among D.C. lawyers. I also serve as an Adjunct Professor at American University's law school where I teach legal ethics to second year students. I also serve as a guest speaker at several continuing legal education courses on professional responsibility/ethical issues.

Since graduating law school, I have become a "bar junkie" and have been actively involved in several local bar associations in both Maryland and the District of Columbia, including the Professionalism Committee. This year, I have been appointed an Assistant Editor for *The Young Lawyer*. I applied to be an ABA Scholar because I want to be more involved, on a national

level, with an organization that greatly influences our esteemed profession. I hope to continue to meet innovative lawyers while sharing my perspective on an area that I am most passionate about, legal ethics.



## Donyetta D. Bailey, Cincinnati, Ohio

Hello YLD! My name is Donnie, and I am truly excited about being a Scholar this year. I have been practicing law for nine years in the areas of labor and employment, workers' compensation, and general civil litigation.

I am the proud mother of Davis, a two-year old. My favorite hobbies include going to the movies and taking my son to Kings Island.

In September 2008, I left one of the largest law firms in Cincinnati to start my own law firm, Bailey Law Office, LLC. Although I have been a member of the ABA for years, it was not until I ventured out on my own that I discovered the true value of my ABA membership.

The ABA has been a tremendous resource tool for my firm and has helped me to stay plugged into the legal profession, even though I am a solo practitioner. I look forward to meeting you all again at the upcoming conference in Orlando, Florida.



## Omar Sebastian Anorga, Los Angeles, California

Hello, everyone! I am a California licensed attorney, and I have been practicing for over five years. For the last two years, I have been out on my own doing business litigation and transactional counseling in the areas of real property, employment, and contractual matters. My firm is located in downtown Los Angeles, which is approximately fifteen minutes from my residence.

I was married on November 14, 2009, and honeymooned in Buenos Aires during the month of December. We're very excited!

I was pleased and excited when the ABA YLD notified me that I would be a Scholar for the 2009–2010 year. I hope to maximize my involvement with the ABA YLD and, most importantly, meet new, young attorneys throughout the nation who will hopefully be friends for a very long time.



## Clarissa L. Freeman, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Greetings! I am a proud Virginia Tech Hokie and graduate of Widener University School of Law, originally from Hampton Roads, Virginia. In my spare time I enjoy music, cooking, and trying new things. I believe that lawyers are a unique population of people blessed with the ability to protect and promote social and equal justice. Throughout my professional and

personal life, I have remained dedicated to one cause, which is helping others.

As an ABA YLD Scholar, I hope to learn more about the ABA YLD and gain valuable knowledge about the profession so that I can be a resource to other young lawyers. Through active participation, I plan to get more young lawyers involved with the ABA YLD. I view my Scholar experience as the beginning of a committed and lasting relationship with the ABA YLD and the ABA.



## Nikki Johnson-Huston, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hello. I am a 2004 graduate from Temple Law School with my J.D./M.B.A./LL.M in Taxation. I am an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia Law Department and work in the Major Tax Unit. I am an Adjunct Professor in the paralegal studies program at the Community College of Philadelphia and Co-Chair of the Women in the Profession Public Service Task Force.

I wanted to become a Scholar so that I could become involved in the ABA YLD and have an impact on the direction of the organization. I am excited to be a Scholar and a member of the National Conferences Team. I look forward to welcoming you to our conferences.



## Laura A. Young, Minneapolis, Minnesota

You may not think of international human rights practice when you think of Minnesota, but think again! I am a Minneapolis-based lawyer working for The Advocates for Human Rights, a non-profit organization of about twenty attorneys and other staff dedicated to the promotion of the rule of law and protection of internationally recognized human rights. We involve lawyers from around the United States in our work as volunteers—if you are interested in getting involved visit our website at [www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org).

I work on a variety of issues including international justice, abolishing the death penalty, women's rights, and transitional justice in Africa. I applied to be a Scholar so as to spread information about how young lawyers can get involved in promoting human rights and the rule of law around the world. I am also currently a Vice-Chair for the ABA Section of International Law's Africa Committee. Looking forward to meeting you!

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The deadline for 2010–2011 scholarship applications is April 15, 2010. For more information about The ABA YLD Scholarship Program, visit [www.abanet.org/yld/scholarships](http://www.abanet.org/yld/scholarships).