

**American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division**  
*The Affiliate*

## **2010–2011 ABA YLD Scholars**

Each year the ABA Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) awards a number of ***scholarships*** to encourage the participation of minority, solo/small firm, and government, public sector, and military service attorneys in the ABA YLD. The program provides partial conference funding and an opportunity to become more involved in the Division. This year we are excited to have these scholars involved.

**Kavitha Babu**, Washington, D.C.

*Minority Scholar*

Kavitha J. Babu is a trial attorney with the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Department of Justice, Civil Division. She received a J.D. from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from the University of Illinois. Before her work with the Department of Justice, Ms. Babu was an associate with Arent Fox LLP, where she practiced white collar criminal defense and government contracts law. Ms. Babu also currently serves on the North American South Asian Bar Association and as a Vice-President on the board of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.

**Dawn Baum**, Washington, D.C.

*Minority Scholar*

Dawn Baum, an enrolled member of the Mole Lake (Sokaogon) Chippewa Tribe of Wisconsin and a descendant of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, was born and raised in Wisconsin. She currently lives and works in Washington, D.C., as a staff attorney at the National Indian Gaming Commission. The Commission's primary mission is to regulate gaming activities on Indian lands for the purpose of shielding Indian tribes from organized crime and other corrupting influences; to ensure that Indian tribes are the primary beneficiaries of gaming revenue; and to assure that gaming is conducted fairly and honestly by both operators and players. Before her recent move to the NIGC, she was a staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund, a nonprofit law firm dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes and their members. She has worked at the Environmental Appeals Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and at the University of Tulsa's Boesche Legal Clinic, where she instructed and supervised law students in the representation of tribal members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in family and civil law cases in tribal, state, and federal courts. Early in her career, she worked in a permanent clerkship with the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, assisting the justices of the highest court of the judicial branch of that tribe's government. Ms. Baum began her education with a B.A. in Religious Studies from Beloit College, graduating magna cum laude and earning the Departmental Prize for Religious Studies. She earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, cum laude, and later completed an LL.M. with honors in American Indian and Indigenous Law at the University of Tulsa. Dawn currently serves as the President-Elect to the Executive Board of the Native American Bar Association of D.C. and has recently served as a co-editor of the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section Newsletter.

**Sidney A. Butcher**, Baltimore, Maryland

*Minority Scholar*

Sidney A. Butcher graduated with a B.S. from Florida A & M University in 2001 and with a J.D. from University of Kansas School of Law in 2004. He is an Assistant State's Attorney in the Juvenile Division with the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City. Sidney is an active member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and serves on the Division's Public Service Committee, where he has volunteered for Our Daily Bread, serves as a mentor at Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School, and assisted with the YLD Holiday Party for homeless children. Sidney was honored by the Baltimore City Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division as the "Young Lawyer of the Month" in November 2008. He also serves on the Monumental City Bar Association's Executive Committee. Sidney is active in the Maryland State Bar Association where he serves on the Public Awareness Committee, Judicial Appointments Committee, and on the Young Lawyers' Section Council. Sidney is also on the Special Committee for the Leadership Academy and a former Fellow. At the national level, Sidney is a member of the ABA and serves as Co-Chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section Membership Committee. Sidney has assisted in putting together several panel discussions geared toward assisting young lawyers in their careers and received best project award for a panel discussion he put together in 2009.

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### **Melissa Doeblin**, Lawrence, Kansas

#### *Government, Military, and Public Sector Scholar*

Melissa Doeblin is practicing as an advisory counsel at the Kansas Corporation Commission, the agency in Kansas that regulates utilities by setting rates and ensuring the public interest is protected. Before working for the Commission, she worked for the Kansas Legislature for four years, where she drafted legislation for various legislative committees and legislators. She is the current President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Kansas Bar Association and has been a member of the KBA YLS executive board for six years. She is also the young lawyer representative on the Board of Governors for the Kansas Bar Association. For this current ABA YLD year, she has been appointed to the Affiliate Assistance Team and holds the Vice-Chair position of the Division's Public Utility, Communication and Transportation Law Committee, as well serving as an ambassador for the Touch 10,000 Program. She is a delegate for Kansas to the ABA YLD Assembly.

### **Micah D. Hall**, St. Louis, Missouri

#### *Minority Scholar*

Micah D. Hall earned a B.A. from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. While attending school, she worked at the UMKC Women's Center and served as editor of the Women's Center newsletter. In 2003, Micah acquired her law degree from Washington University School of Law where she was active and held offices in several organizations. She is currently admitted to practice law in Missouri and Illinois. On graduation from law school, Micah served as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Missouri in the Financial Services Division. Subsequently, she worked as a Trust Administrator with the Edward Jones Trust Company where she managed trust and probate transactions on hundreds of accounts. Afterward, Micah was an associate at a mid-sized St. Louis law firm representing large corporate clients in general litigation. Micah is an experienced estate planning and probate litigation attorney and is currently an Associate at Williams and Morris, LLC. Micah has served as an Adjunct Professor at Washington University in the African and African-American Studies program and maintains ties with her alma mater as a mentor for law students. In 2009, Micah served as a reviewer of the Missouri Bar CLE *Deskbook Practice Series on Estate Administration*. She is very active in the community and currently President-Elect of the Mound City Bar Association, which is the oldest black bar association west of the Mississippi River. Micah is a member of the Mound City Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and was selected as a member of the Missouri Bar's Leadership Academy class of 2008–2009. She is actively involved in the Little Red Schoolhouse with her church, which presents monthly programs to educate the community on legal issues.

### **Latasha McCrary**, Huntsville, Alabama

#### *General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Scholar*

Latasha McCrary is a solo practitioner in Huntsville, Alabama. She received a J.D. from The University of Alabama School of Law in 2008 and is licensed in the state of Alabama. Before starting her practice, Latasha worked in the Office of Chief Counsel at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. At NASA, she worked in the general law division, handling matters involving labor and employment, contracts, and administrative law. She also worked with Legal Services of Alabama, where she handled consumer protection matters for indigent clients. In addition to her practice, Latasha spends time writing about criminal justice and constitutional issues facing Alabama. Her work has been published in both national and international journals. Latasha is an active member of her community as the founder and president of the Young Professionals' Club, a founding member of Alabama Non-violent Offenders' Organization, the founder of "Love Your Neighbor Day," an effort dedicated to uplifting vulnerable citizens, and a member of the legislative committee for Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. During her spare time, Latasha enjoys relaxing with her family and friends.

### **Sharrolyn Miles**, LaPlace, Louisiana

#### *Minority Scholar*

Sharrolyn Miles is an attorney in LaPlace, Louisiana, with experience in a wide range of practice areas including general litigation, juvenile defense, personal injury, health care, construction, medical malpractice, products liability, and toxic torts. She has represented both plaintiffs and defendants. Sharrolyn graduated magna cum laude from Southern University Law Center in 2004, where she served as the Executive Editor of the *Southern University Law Review* and participated as a student attorney in the Juvenile Law Clinic. Before law school, Sharrolyn attended Tulane School of Architecture, where she received a Master's degree in Architecture. Sharrolyn is actively involved in the local legal community and will serve as President of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.—the specialty bar association for African-American attorneys in the Greater New Orleans legal community for the 2010–2011 term. She is an active member of the Association of Women Attorneys (board member 2007–present), the Louisiana Association of

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Black Women Attorneys, the A. P. Tureaud American Inn of Court, the American Bar Association, and the Louisiana State Bar Association (Rules of Professional Conduct Committee). Before starting her private practice, Sharrolyn worked as an associate in the New Orleans office of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC. In her spare time, Sharrolyn enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, attending church, and volunteering in law-related efforts to benefit the community.

**Yonelle Moore**, Silver Springs, Maryland  
*General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Scholar*

Yonelle A. Moore is a mediator, arbitrator, and solo practitioner licensed in New Jersey and Maryland with experience in immigration, bankruptcy, family, and corporate law. She was born in Guyana, South America, and is the first generation in her family educated in the United States. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of D.C., where she served as "Miss UDC," editor of the student newspaper, and was elected Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. Yonelle earned a J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law, where she was featured in "Who's Who: American Law Students," and was inducted into both the Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternities. While at Pepperdine, Yonelle worked as a legal intern at the House of Commons and won the International Moot Court competition during a semester abroad in London, England. She has received several accolades, including being named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Cobb County Democratic Women, the "Phenomenal Woman" award by Kennesaw State University, and being featured in "Who's Who: Black Atlanta." Yonelle currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Minority Business and Opportunities Commission in Prince George's County, Maryland; as a member of Congresswoman Donna Edwards's Nonprofit Advisory Commission; and is in the process of becoming both a foster parent and a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children. Yonelle also serves as the Vice-Chair of the ABA YLD Dispute Resolution Committee, and as a Touch 10,000 Ambassador.

**Zoë Polk**, San Francisco, California  
*Minority Scholar*

Zoë Polk is a California licensed attorney based in San Francisco, California. Although she practices primarily in the area of police misconduct, she also has two years of experience in general civil litigation, including consumer law, civil rights law, and personal injury law. She obtained a B.S. from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in Government with a minor in French. After graduating, she worked for two years at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where she focused on increasing women and youth civic participation in the Middle East. Although she graduated from St. John's Law School in New York, she also spent a semester at the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco and the University of Cape Town Faculty of Law in South Africa. During law school, she was hired as a consultant to the United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, where she wrote an advocacy paper on international law and girl child soldiers. A proud recipient of her law school's Silver Pro Bono Award, Zoë consistently seeks out opportunities to help disenfranchised populations. While in South Africa, she volunteered at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and on a documentary depicting teenage girls in the Khyilitsha Township. In 2006, she traveled to New Orleans as a part of her law school's first delegation of students to areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. For the past two years, she has provided pro bono representation to San Francisco Homeless Coalition's Homeless Citation Defense program. Since graduating from law school, Zoë has served as a mentor, frequent panel speaker, and bar exam tutor to law students through the University of California Hastings College of Law Legal Education Opportunity Program. In her spare time, Zoë enjoys cross country skiing, farmers' markets, reading *The New Yorker*, and fishing with her Dad.

**Beverly H. Rampaul**, Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
*Government, Military, and Public Sector Scholar*

Beverly H. Rampaul is a Senior Assistant Public Defender with the Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) Office of the Public Defender. She handles a variety of major criminal cases, including attempted homicide, vehicular homicide, sex offenses, firearms, arson, robbery, and burglary, among others. In the ABA, Ms. Rampaul is involved with the Litigation Section, Criminal Litigation Committee, Minority Trial Lawyers, and the Young Lawyers Division. She serves as the ABA Criminal Litigation Committee Programming Subcommittee Co-Chair. From 2008 to 2010 she was a voting member of the Pennsylvania Delegation to the ABA House of Delegates. In the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), Ms. Rampaul is an active member of the Women in the Profession Committee, Corrections System Committee, and Minority Bar Committee. She currently chairs the Minority Bar Committee. Ms. Rampaul has served as a member of the PBA Nominating Committee. From 2006 to 2010, she was a voting member of the PBA House of Delegates. She is a 1997 graduate of

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Lafayette College and a 2000 graduate of The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. In addition, Ms. Rampaul attended the Mercer University School of Law National Criminal Defense College in Macon, Georgia.

**Sorraya M. Solages**, Coral Gables, Florida

*Minority Scholar*

Sorraya M. Solages specializes in appellate practice and insurance defense litigation in Miami, Florida. She holds bar licenses in Florida and Pennsylvania. Ms. Solages received a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University in 2002, where she held the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *Nova Law Review*, and a B.A. from the University of Central Florida with a major in Legal Studies and double minors in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Presently, Ms. Solages is a Vice-Chair of the ABA/YLD Litigation Committee. She also serves as the President-Elect of the Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section as well as the Vice-Chair of the *Florida Bar Journal/News* Editorial Board.

**Archana Vaidhyanathan**, Cerritos, California

*Minority Scholar*

Archana Vaidhyanathan is a member of the State Bar of California and Bar Council of Delhi (India). She received an LL.B. from the University of Delhi in 2005 and an LL.M. from New York University School of Law in 2008. At New York University School of Law, she served as a Graduate Editor with the *Journal of International Law and Politics*. Ms. Vaidhyanathan is a scholar of the J. N. Tata Endowment, India. Her current practice includes business and transactional law with The Chugh Firm in Cerritos, California. In the past, she was a law firm Associate in New Delhi, India. Ms. Vaidhyanathan is a member of the ABA Business Law Section and the ABA YLD, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and South Asian Bar Association of Southern California. In the past, Ms. Vaidhyanathan has published articles on data protection and the right to information.

**Michael O. Walker**, Norfolk, Virginia

*Government, Military, and Public Sector Scholar*

Michael O. Walker is a Lieutenant and Judge Advocate with the United States Coast Guard. He is assigned currently to the Coast Guard Legal Service Command in Norfolk, Virginia, in the Military Justice and Command Advice Branch. There, he serves as Trial Counsel (prosecutor) in courts-martial, represents the Coast Guard in administrative separation proceedings, and advises units on military justice and investigative and disciplinary issues. Before entering the Coast Guard in July 2009, Michael practiced law in Paducah, Kentucky, in areas ranging from admiralty law to family law. He serves currently as Vice-Chair of the ABA YLD Administrative Law Committee. He also served as 2009–2010 Vice-Chair of the ABA YLD Technology Team and was a Delegate to the ABA YLD Assembly from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Michael was a member of the Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee for five years. His goal is to help develop programming on trial practice, homeland security, and disaster response matters, as well as to recruit more military and government attorneys into the ABA. He, his wife, Donna Maria, and their son, Andrew, live in Norfolk.

**Emily Wolff**, Belle Fourche, South Dakota

*General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Scholar*

Emily Wolff is a general solo practitioner in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. She received a J.D. from the University of South Dakota School of Law in May 2009 and was admitted to the South Dakota State Bar in October 2009. Emily worked for one year with the Leroy Hill Law Office in Belle Fourche before going into business on her own. Emily's main practice areas include family law, criminal law, involuntary alcohol and mental health commitments, and estate planning. She is involved in the local Young Professionals, Community Volunteers in Service of our Neighbors, Teen Court, church, and the Butte County Bar Association. This fall, Emily began serving as the ABA YLD Criminal and Juvenile Justice Committee Vice-Chair, as well serving as an ambassador for the Touch 10,000 Program.

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**Alma Zuniga**, Yakima, Washington

*Minority Scholar*

Alma Zuniga is a staff attorney with the Northwest Justice Project a statewide legal services organization in Washington State. Her law practice is concentrated in family law, consumer law, and housing law. Alma represents low-income individuals in state court. She received a J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2005 and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Oregon in 2002. She is a member of the ABA, the ABA Family Law Section, the Washington State Bar (WSBA), WSBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD), and the Yakima County Bar Association (YCBA). Alma was elected to a three-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees of the WSBA YLD. She is the Chair for the 2010–2011 Yakima Pre Law Student Leadership Conference.

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