



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Laura Atanasovski

General Motors Scholar

University of Detroit Mercy  
School of Law



Laura Atanasovski is a third-year law student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Prior to law school, Laura worked as an Intellectual Property Legal Assistant and as a Patent Paralegal in the automotive industry. Laura has excelled in her law school career, earning Dean's list for Fall of 2019 and Book Awards in both Property 2 and the Environmental Law Clinic. She has also interned at the Detroit Land Bank Authority and Rivian Automotive. She hopes to continue working in the corporate field after law school. Between her work and school schedule, Laura is also a devoted wife and mother of two young children.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Imani Ivery

General Motors Scholar

University of Michigan  
Law School



Imani Ivery is a third-year student at the University of Michigan Law School and is very honored to be selected as the 2021 General Motors Scholar. As a daughter of non-profit business owners, Imani was always interested in combining business and the law to create broader change in the community. She decided to come to the University of Michigan Law School to gain a top-notch education and maintain family ties in the area. In law school, Imani has sought to become an invaluable advisor for underrepresented leaders, particularly through her role as a Law Associate for the Michigan Social Venture Fund at the Ross School of Business. Imani also has a strong background in cross-cultural relations; she worked in Beijing, Geneva, and Brussels and speaks Mandarin and French. After graduating, Imani plans to practice transactional law at a law firm and hopes to develop financial inclusion workshops curated for African American women nationwide.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Kathryn Kucyk

Miller Canfield Scholar

Western Michigan University  
Cooley Law School



Kathryn Kucyk has demonstrated her dedication to gender issues and equity in the law before and during law school. Specifically, her commitment to sexual assault prevention and advocacy began as an undergraduate student at Western Michigan University where she studied Gender and Women's Studies and served as a sexual assault peer educator. Before attending law school, she worked as a Prevention Education Specialist at a Michigan domestic and sexual violence non-profit. During law school, Kathryn worked as an assistant in WMU-Cooley's Family Law Assistance Project, which provided legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence. She is currently a Law Clerk in Governor Whitmer's Office of Legal Counsel and works in WMU-Cooley's Innocence Project clinic. Kathryn has accepted a position at the Michigan Court of Appeals as a Research Attorney to begin after graduation, and she looks forward to continuing her passion of pursuing justice for all.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Joy Mohammed

John Dalton & Mary Lou Peacock  
Scholar

University of Detroit Mercy  
School of Law



Joy Mohammed is a part time extended day program law student at the University of Detroit Mercy. Law is a second career for Joy, as she is transitioning from being a DPSCD school counselor. While in law school she works full time running an outreach program for Detroit Mercy's College of Engineering and Science. Joy lives in Detroit with her husband and three children and hopes to open her own law firm when she graduates which will serve small businesses, women, and people of color.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Hanna Rutkowski

Kim Cahill Scholar

University of Michigan  
Law School



Hanna Rutkowski grew up outside of Marquette, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She attended Northwestern University, where she studied math and social science, and then worked in Chicago as a data analyst, most recently supporting a group of 31 public schools in the city. Since coming to the University of Michigan, Hanna has continued her commitment to public interest, interning with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Youth Law. She also participated in the Detroit Litigation Advocacy Workshop and the Michigan Workers' Rights Clinic. Hanna served on the *Michigan Law Review* as a Senior Editor, and recently published her student Note on conditions of confinement for pretrial detainees. Hanna will clerk following graduation, in the Western District of Pennsylvania and on the Fourth Circuit.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Daniela Sanchez

Florence King Patent Law  
Scholar

University of Michigan  
Law School



Daniela Sanchez is a third-year JD/MBA student at the University of Michigan. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a B.S. in Microbiology. Prior to attending graduate school, Daniela worked as a teacher, a clinical researcher, and a technology analyst. At Michigan Law, she has continued to explore her interest in Intellectual Property (IP) law, spending two summers with IP groups at different law firms and participating in programs like the HNBA's IP Law Institute. Additionally, Daniela is involved with the Latinx Law Students Association, the Peer Tutoring Program, and the Michigan Technology Law Review. At Ross, she is an Investment Associate for the Founder's Fund and the Wolverine Venture Fund. After graduation, Daniela will join Goodwin's Life Sciences team as a corporate associate.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Alenna Siacon

Dawn Van Hoek Scholar

Wayne State University  
Law School



Aleanna Siacon is a second-year student at Wayne State University Law School. Prior to law school, Aleanna was a freelance reporter/intern for the *Detroit Free Press* and USA Today Network, where she completed more than 650 stories on the breaking news desk. While an undergraduate at Wayne State University, Aleanna also interned for several other publications, including *Hour Detroit*, *Metro Times*, *Inc. Magazine* (New York, NY), and the *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester, NY). Her work has also been published by *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Associated Press*. In 2019, she was selected as the Outstanding Journalism Graduate of the Year by Wayne State faculty.

Aleanna, who immigrated from the Philippines to the United States at the age of two, acquired an early fascination with the United States legal system. After graduating with degrees in journalism, political science, and history, Siacon chose to apply her passion for storytelling to a career in legal advocacy. At Wayne Law, Aleanna has served as Secretary of the Wayne Health Law Society, President of the Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association, and Founder of the newly-launched Wayne Law Diversity Coalition, which is an effort to strengthen the partnership between and streamline the efforts of the law school's multicultural organizations. Siacon has also been recently named the 2021-2022 Diversity Editor of the *Wayne Law Review* and has earned awards for oral advocacy as a member of Moot Court. Siacon has interned for the Hon. Mark A. Goldsmith and the United States Attorney's Office Civil Division. Additionally, she will be a 2021 summer associate at Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Nicole Van Blaricum

Dobrusin Law Scholar

Wayne State University  
Law School



A non-traditional student and mom, Nichole will become the first lawyer in her family. She has been with her partner Andy for 19 years and they share two wonderful sons ages 5 & 13. Nichole graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Michigan State University following the birth of her oldest son. She later returned to school to earn her Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation. After working as an architectural historian and archivist for five years, Nichole began to desire a career that would be more fulfilling and allow her to have a greater impact; this prompted her to enroll in law school. During her first year, Nichole embraced law school, attending numerous networking events and serving as a 1L representative with the Women's Law Caucus. Now in her second year, Nichole continues her membership in the WLC and is serving as a student attorney with WSU's Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, where she represents noncitizen clients in defensive immigration proceedings. Nichole currently works as an adjunct professor of Anthropology with Mid-Michigan College, where she has received recognition for her unique, online course design. She is also working as a law clerk for Rivertown Law Firm, where she focuses mainly on municipal, zoning, and land use law. Finally, Nichole hopes to do pro bono service this summer with the Legal Services of South Central Michigan. Following graduation, she aspires to work advocating for inclusive communities and affordable housing.





## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Grace Vandegriff

Dickinson Wright Women's  
Network Scholar

Michigan State University  
College of Law



Before attending Michigan State College of Law, Grace Vandegriff graduated from Hillsdale college with a BA in Politics. At MSU, she participates as a member of the Student Parent Alliance, Public Interest Law Society, and Federalist Society. During the summer of 2020, she was a law clerk at Podlaski LLP, gaining experience in many types of law. During this past fall semester, as a 2L, Grace completed training to become a Civil Facilitative Mediator. She also completed an Entrepreneurial lawyering class where she drafted a formal business plan focused on helping firms increase efficiency and organization in an increasingly digital society. As a single mother of a young son, Grace plans to offer free and discounted legal services to single mothers and women in need after graduation. As an entrepreneur, she also plans to mentor, train, and find creative ways to support women in the professional world.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Julia Walczak

WLAM Foundation Scholar

University of Detroit Mercy  
School of Law



After graduating from McMaster University, Julia Walczak spent seven years abroad working as an English Instructor in South Korea. Upon her return to Canada, Julia worked at a family law firm and then a general practice firm before being accepted to the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law as a Dean's Fellow. Since coming to Detroit Mercy, she has become an advocate for gender equality in the legal profession serving as the Secretary of the Women's Law Caucus and currently acting as Wayne Liaison. She has also actively participated in multiple WLAM Wayne committees as a board member. Julia is also currently a Junior Member of both Law Review and Moot Court at Detroit Mercy and is working as a law clerk at LeFevre Associates where she plans to continue working after graduation.



## 2021 WLAM Foundation Scholar



### Desirae Williams

Masco Scholar

Michigan State University  
College of Law



Originally from Flint, Michigan, Desirae became the first in her family to graduate from college, with her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University, where she was very involved in diversity and inclusion initiatives. Since coming to Michigan State University College of Law, she has continued her commitment to diversity and inclusion, serving as the Secretary for the Black Law Students Association, and working as a Research Assistant on legal and ethical issues surrounding the post-Civil War Amendments, the Nineteenth Amendment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and Title VII. Desirae also serves as a Senior Notes Editor for Michigan State Law Review and is a member of the Geoffrey Fifer Trial Practice Institute (TPI) at Michigan State. TPI is a highly competitive program that covers every stage of the trial process, from pre-trial preparation to jury selection to sentencing. Desirae plans to do real estate and government relations and public policy in economic development work after graduation.