

2026
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation
Awards for Outstanding Law Students

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of the 2026 awards to outstanding law students, funded by generous contributions from individuals, law firms, and corporations. Scholarships will be awarded statewide to outstanding law students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools (University of Michigan Law School, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, and University of Detroit Mercy School of Law). The following awards will be made in 2026:

Jean Ledwith King Scholar:

One \$3,500 award for a student attending the University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, or University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, sponsored by the membership of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar:

One \$3,500 award at the University of Michigan Law School, sponsored by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation.

Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar:

One \$3,500 award at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law sponsored by the Dickinson Wright Women's Network.

Dawn Van Hoek Scholar:

One \$3,500 award at Wayne State University Law School, sponsored by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation.

Florence King Scholar in Patent Law

One \$3,500 award for a student attending the University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, or University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, sponsored by Women Patent Lawyers.

General Motors Scholarship

Two \$3,500 awards for students attending the University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, or University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, sponsored by General Motors Corporation.

Dobrusin Law Firm Scholarship

One \$3,500 award for a student attending the University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, or University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, sponsored by the Dobrusin Law Firm.

Miller Canfield Scholarship

One \$3,500 award for a student attending the University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, Wayne State University Law School, or University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, sponsored by Miller Canfield.

Zenell and James Brown Scholar

One \$3,500 scholarship for a student at one of Michigan's law schools (University of Michigan Law School, Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Michigan State University of Law, Wayne State University Law School, and University of Detroit Mercy School of Law), sponsored by Zenell Brown.

Additional information about the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation, and law student awardees in prior years, is available at www.wlamfoundation.org. A description of the award criteria and application process follows. Candidates for the awards must clearly indicate the award(s) they seek in their letter of interest and may apply for all available at their law school. Only one award will be made to each student, and previous awardees are ineligible.

Specific Requirement Criteria by Scholarship:

The Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar, Jean Ledwith King Scholar, Dawn Van Hoek Scholar, General Motors Scholars, and Miller Canfield Scholar, must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full or part-time
- Possess good academic standing
- Demonstrate leadership capabilities in advancing the position of women in society, including service in such areas as: social justice, equality, family law, child advocacy, domestic violence, or work on behalf of underserved areas or populations.

The Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full or part-time
- Maintain a 3.0 grade point average
- Demonstrate leadership capabilities in advancing the position of women in society, in business, and in the community.

The Florence King Scholar in Patent Law must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full or part-time
- Possess good academic standing
- Demonstrate leadership capabilities in advancing the position of women in society, including service in such areas as: social justice, equality, family law, child advocacy, domestic violence, or work on behalf of underserved areas or populations, as well as eligibility to practice and an interest in patent law.

The Dobrusin Law Firm Scholar must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full or part-time
- Possess good academic standing
- Demonstrate strong interest in promoting women in business and/or female entrepreneurship.

The Zenell and James Brown Scholar must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full or part-time
- Possess good academic standing
- Demonstrate an exceptional commitment to the law and the Detroit Community
- This scholarship is intended to recognize that academic grades do not always reflect our abilities and to recognize a hardworking and dedicated student.
- Demonstrate a perseverance, resilience and a strong work ethic.

Each applicant for any award must submit:

1. A law school transcript (to the extent that this is possible for 2L and 3L applicants);
2. A detailed letter of interest explaining how the student meets award criteria, and any relevant connections and commitments to the State of Michigan;
3. A resume;
4. Letters of recommendation (no more than three – these may be sent directly to Nicole Wilinski nicole.wilinski@ceflawyers.com, directly to a designated contact at the law school, or provided by the student to their law school as part of their application).

Application materials should be submitted as a SINGLE PDF file in the following order:

1. Letter of Interest
2. Resume
3. Transcript
4. Letters of Recommendation

PDFs should be labeled as follows: Law School Name – Student Last Name, First Name. (E.g. Wayne State University- Wilinski, Nicole).

Application Process (all schools):

Each law school will collect applications and forward nominees for each award to the Foundation Board for final approval. For any scholarships designated for one school only, we would prefer that only one nominee be submitted (if that complies with school rules). However, each applicant may be submitted for more than one scholarship. The following deadlines are in place for this year's process:

- Students must apply in writing to their law school no later than **March 13, 2026**;
- The law schools will forward to the Foundation Board recommended awardees, no later than **March 23, 2026**.
- The WLAM Foundation Board will review nominations in early April 2026.
- The awards will be decided by April 13, 2026, and announced publicly at the end of April 2026.
- Our current plan is to invite the scholars, their families, and all law school representatives to an event planned for April 25, 2026 in the Detroit area in conjunction with the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan's Annual Meeting.

Applications at your law school should be returned to: _____

Awards on a school-by-school basis:

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| University of Michigan Law School: | 1 Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar (\$3,500) |
| Wayne State University Law School: | 1 Dawn Van Hoek Scholar (\$3,500) |
| University of Detroit Mercy School of Law: | 1 Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar (\$3,500) |
| All referenced law schools: | 1 Jean Ledwith King Scholar (\$3,500)
1 Miller Canfield Scholar (\$3,500)
1 Florence King Scholar in Patent Law (\$3,500)
2 General Motors Scholars (\$3,500 ea.)
1 Dobrusin Law Firm Scholar (\$3,500)
1 Zenell and James Brown Scholar (\$3,500) |