

## **Allen County Bar Foundation announces winners of the Legal Opportunity Scholarship for students from underrepresented racial, ethnic groups with ties to Allen County**

July 10, 2023

The Allen County Bar Foundation (the “Foundation”) is proud to announce the winners of the 2023 Legal Opportunity Scholarships: Thierno A. Diallo (\$2,500), Annemaria Farrell (\$2,000), and Rosalina Perez (\$1,500).

These scholarships have been made possible with generous donations from the Allen County Bar Foundation and Stewart Richardson Deposition Services. Those interested in contributing to the scholarship may donate online at: <https://www.allencountybar.org/allen-county-bar-foundation/> or by calling 260-423-2359.

The Allen County Bar Foundation Legal Opportunity Scholarship provides funds for law students and undergraduates from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who are from Allen County, Indiana or plan to practice law there.

The scholarship provides up to \$2,500 to a law student for tuition and fees or for bar exam preparation and up to \$1,500 for an undergraduate student preparing to take the Law School Admissions Test.

The Foundation’s 2023 scholarships go to two students who will enroll in law school in the fall, and one undergraduate who is preparing to apply to law school following graduation.

Mr. Diallo graduated from Indiana University (Bloomington) with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice followed by a master’s degree in cybersecurity risk management. He will enroll in the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis in the fall. Mr. Diallo is employed by PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Indianapolis as a Cyber, Risk, and Regulatory Associate. While a student at Indiana University, Mr. Diallo served as Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Affairs, a Cadet Officer and Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator in the Indiana University Police Department, and President of the African Students’ Association. Following graduation from law school, Mr. Diallo intends to secure a position with a law firm and relocate to Fort Wayne, home to his fiancé.

Ms. Farrell earned an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Ivy Tech Community College, and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Trine University. She will enroll in Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in the fall. Ms. Farrell is a Mayan Indian who was adopted from Guatemala. A lifelong resident of Allen County, she worked for the City of Fort Wayne Police Department for three years and has also served as an intern with the Allen County Prosecutor’s Office. Ms. Farrell also has significant volunteer experience as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, as well as providing program information to elementary students as an instructor for Junior Achievement.

Ms. Perez, fluent in Spanish and the mother of 11- and 14-year-old children, earned an associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College in paralegal studies in 2015, including an internship with Fort Wayne Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. She spent the next six years as the paralegal and office manager for the Fort Wayne office of an immigration attorney based in Chicago. She currently is employed at the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center as its Bilingual Program Manager. In that position, she provides services and resources for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs and is responsible for administering a \$200,000 Small Business Administration grant, all while working toward her bachelor's degree as a full-time student at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Her scholarship will enable Ms. Perez to prepare for the Law School Admissions Test, an important step toward law school and a legal career in Fort Wayne.

“The Allen County Bar Foundation is honored to further its mission by awarding three scholarships to students who are equipped to make a difference now and in the future,” said Hon. Ashley Hand, president of the Foundation board. “We are excited to see where they go in the legal profession in the years to come.”

The Allen County Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to promoting civic engagement and knowledge of the law. To accomplish its mission, the Bar Foundation gathers and directs resources to programs and organizations that educate individuals in Allen County and Northeast Indiana about civics and the law. It is a separate entity from the Allen County Bar Association and includes board members from the bench, bar and community.

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