

Allen County Bar Foundation announces winners of scholarship for students from underrepresented racial, ethnic groups with ties to Allen County

July 1, 2022

The Allen County Bar Foundation (the “Foundation”) is proud to announce the winners of the 2022 Legal Opportunity Scholarship: Ms. Thandar Thet (\$2,500), Ms. Olivia Kurajian (\$2,000), and Ms. Sha’Tearaney Suttle (\$1,500). These scholarships have been made possible with generous donations from the Foundation and Stewart Richardson Deposition Services.

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 funded the scholarship for its initial year with one award for a law student and one for an undergraduate student. Additional funds from Stewart Richardson enabled a third student to receive financial assistance in 2022 as well. 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.



Ms. Thet is a Burmese-American student from Fort Wayne who will attend Indiana University’s Maurer Law School in August of 2022. Before law school, she served in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Analyst, which allowed her to pay her way through her Political Science bachelor’s degree at Indiana University (Bloomington). While in the Navy, she worked on an exercise with Judge Advocate General attorneys who specialized in the law of war and international relations, which inspired her to apply for law school. After the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, she joined the civil disobedience movement. Since then, she has done volunteer work to condemn Myanmar’s current military dictatorship and served as a Burmese translator.



Ms. Kurajian is an American-Canadian dual citizen and ethnically Armenian law student who is working at Rothberg Law Firm as a Summer Associate. She holds a Master of Arts in history and currently attends Michigan State University College of Law. Ms. Kurajian's partner is a proud Manchester University alum, and the family hopes to settle in Allen County following graduation. In addition to being involved in multiple law school activities, such as the Moot Court Team and the Canadian Legal Association, Ms. Kurajian is a licensed substitute teacher and serves as a leader for her daughter's Daisy Girl Scout troop.



Ms. Suttle is an African-American student from Fort Wayne, Indiana who attends Indiana University (Bloomington) and recently received her Bachelor's of Science in Public Affairs. She plans to use the scholarship funds to pay for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) as well as LSAT Prep Materials. In her application, Ms. Suttle emphasized the importance of being able to give back to the community and wanting to invest in the individuals that gave back to her. She also mentioned wanting to attend law school because just 14.6% of lawyers are African-American females. She wants to be able to increase and change that number tremendously. Ms. Suttle's career aspiration is to become an attorney to help juveniles. While pursuing her career as an attorney, she also wants to create a rehabilitation program to help individuals clear their records before the age of 18.

“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 Damian Gosheff, 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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