

Foundation Awards Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship

by Jeanette Bazis



Jeanette Bazis is a partner at the Minneapolis law firm Greene Espel PLLP. A 1992 University of Minnesota Law School graduate and a former federal district court clerk, Bazis is a highly regarded litigator whose practice focuses on complex disputes that arise between businesses and their employees. She also merged her business and IP litigation skills to return the 1960's smash hit "Louie Louie" to its rightful owners. In 2012 and 2013, Minnesota Lawyer recognized Bazis as "Attorney of the Year" for her advancement of LGBTQ and gender equity.

The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association is pleased to announce the 2018 recipient of the Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship: Jasmine Stanzick of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law.

The Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship promotes the practice of federal law by awarding a scholarship of \$5,000 to a law student attending an ABA-accredited law school. The scholarship is named in honor of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association past president and founder of the Fellows program, Robert A. McNew, who also served as president of the FBA and as a director of the Federal Bar Building Corporation. McNew has been an active member of the FBA for more than 30 years and continues to support the foundation in his retirement.

Applicants for the Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship must be current law student associate members in good standing who exhibit professionalism and high character in their personal and professional lives through participation in the FBA, law school, community activities, and academic achievement. Application materials include a personal essay, transcript, and letters of recommendation.

Stanzick is a second-year law student at Loyola. Growing up in Rabat, Morocco, Stanzick supervised the Sister Club at the Rabat American High School, organizing group workshops with girls from impoverished Moroccan towns to instruct them on using technology to learn English and to educate them on their rights as women in Morocco. In 2014, she managed and coordinated a youth leadership workshop with Lady Khama Charitable Trust in Gaborone, Botswana. The workshop offered young adults the opportunity to receive personal career training and network with professionals and leaders of large companies.

In her personal essay, Stanzick wrote that her choices in life have "always been subject to scrutiny, especially my decision to pursue a legal career."

"Throughout my childhood and formative years, I have been witness to many instances in which individuals are treated unequally based on their gender, economic status, political affiliations, or religious stance. These experiences fed my determination to

spirit against those who were unwilling to accept women into professional society, and eventually led me to pursue a career in law. On this endeavor, I've taken it upon myself to be financially independent as my family has already fought to help me obtain an American education that I would not have been able to acquire otherwise."

Stanzick received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She served two years as head delegate and chair of the Model United Nations, researching international political issues including supporting entrepreneurship in developing countries, improving information and communication technologies for growth, and managing migration for economic development.

Stanzick was a staff member of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* and received the CALI award for the best grade in her legal writing course. She won Best Brief at the Thomas Tang Moot Court National Competition, of which she was also a national champion after winning her regional competition. She was also a student writer on the American Bar Association *Student Lawyer Magazine* during the summer of 2017.

Stanzick has made it a goal to step out of her comfort zone and challenge herself both educationally and professionally.

"Joining the Thomas Tang Moot Court team and having had the honor to participate and win both the regional and national competitions has been instrumental in teaching me that dedication and hard work reap results, even where self-confidence may be lacking."

As the first member in her family to pursue a graduate degree, Stanzick wrote that "the challenges of law school bred uncertainties as to whether I would be able to thrive in such an atmosphere. However, my determination allowed me to gain something more valuable than tangible accomplishments; they helped nurture a feeling of certainty and belonging to a specific community of intellectual individuals."

An important part of Stanzick's legal education was externing last summer for Judge Sara L. Ellis, U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the Northern District of Illinois, researching and drafting judicial opinions for pre-trial motions, including Title VI discrimination and misappropriation of trade secrets claims.

In her recommendation supporting Stanzick for the McNew Scholarship, Maria L. Domanskis, Judge Ellis' law clerk, wrote that Stanzick came to her judicial externship with a unique perspective in the legal system.

"Like almost all students we see after their first year of law school, she was not necessarily sure that litigation—let alone federal litigation—was her primary interest. Yet as the summer wore on, Jasmine increasingly became more fascinated by the possibilities of such a path. She observed the Northern District of Illinois' reentry court program, designed to help former inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after their release from prison, and discussed the issues the participants faced with Judge Ellis and other members of the reentry court program team."

Domanskis also wrote that Stanzick demonstrated her ability to digest the facts presented to her, understand the arguments being made, determine how the law should apply to the facts presented, and communicate her position clearly and succinctly.

"Jasmine asked intelligent questions as appropriate, indicating she was appropriately grappling with the issues at hand. She ably incorporated feedback into her drafts, ultimately producing finished drafts that proved valuable to our chambers.

"Jasmine also made a wonderful addition to our chambers life, always friendly and cheerful, while at the same time professional, polite, and humble. Her willingness to go above and beyond is something we often do not see in externs. It is clear that she is a very driven and focused individual, inspired to achieve success in the law

and make improvements in it at the same time."

Her long list of accomplishments in law school continue as she serves as president of the Loyola Federal Bar Association, a student chapter that Stanzick single-handedly brought back to life after many years of dormancy, wrote professor Josie M. Gough in her recommendation.

"I know Jasmine to be a consummate professional. She is a natural leader and she does so with poise and grace. Jasmine exemplifies those characteristics that the foundation is looking for in choosing a scholarship recipient. Jasmine understands the power and prestige associated with membership in the Federal Bar Association."

Jasmine attended the 2017 FBA Annual Meeting and convention in Atlanta, and Gough wrote that the experience and her high expectations for Loyola's FBA chapter led her to "set forth an agenda of events and opportunities that have served to help her fellow students."

"The Federal Bar Association has been instrumental in helping me achieve my goals," Stanzick wrote in her personal essay. "In my short time as president of the Loyola FBA, I have been able to share and promote the incredible community I have become a part of. In the two events we have held this semester, student interest in the FBA has expanded as a result of the talented and experienced professionals that generously agree to share their time and knowledge, including Judge [Virginia M.] Kendall and Magistrate Judge [Young B.] Kim from the Northern District of Illinois. I have come to realize that the FBA is not just a group you join in law school, but one that remains with you for the remainder of your legal career and one that I am thrilled and honored to be a part of." ☺



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