

### Updates from Some Past Diversity Scholarship Recipients

“Since receiving the scholarship, I worked at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco. At the ILRC I drafted a legal strategies manual for attorneys representing DREAM Act eligible students in removal proceedings. This included a memorandum to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) analyzing the law surrounding the DHS’ exercise of favorable prosecutorial discretion. I also had the opportunity of working on the ILRC’s “anti-fraud campaign” where I gained experience on the legal issues surrounding the unauthorized practice of law. Specifically, I drafted a memorandum that focused on state law remedies for prosecutors seeking to bring causes of action against fraudulent immigration legal service providers.

As a second year law school student I was accepted to the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic as a student attorney, and have served on the UC Davis La Raza Law Students Association Board. In this capacity I have collaborated in hosting Naturalization Workshops for the Sacramento Area, and hosted a Law School Admissions workshop for over 100 students of underrepresented communities. The bulk of my work has been preparing my client for her hearing before the San Francisco Immigration Court later this week.”

***Aidin Castillo, U.C. Davis School of Law, 2009 scholarship recipient.***

“My summer externship with Judge Patel was just amazing. I worked on a ton of different cases, and had a lot of day-to-day interactions with the Judge herself, and I found myself soaking up so much information quickly.

As for the academic year, I've been taking a wide assortment of classes -- from public international law and environmental law, to class actions and copyright. It's been exciting diving into all these subjects head-first. I keep finding more and more areas of law that interest me.

I've also been working away as a second-year editor on the Hastings Law Journal, and am writing my note right now. My note topic is on how NGOs can bring international child labor claims in U.S. district courts under the Alien Tort Statute.

Most of all, I'm super excited about my summer at FBM -- I can't wait to be thrown into it all!”

***Unnati Gandhi, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2009 scholarship recipient.***

“I received the Farella Braun Diversity Scholarship in the spring of my 1L year (2008). During my 1L summer I worked as an intern in the Office of the Legal Advisor of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. This position was unpaid, and the Farella Braun Diversity Scholarship helped me to pursue the opportunity. During my 2L summer I worked as a summer associate for Skadden Arps in the firm's London office, and accepted their offer to join the firm after graduation. I will be working in the areas of capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, and project finance. I have also served on Boalt's financial aid committee since my 1L year and study French and Chinese.”

***Michelle Mersey, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2008 scholarship recipient.***

“Since I received the diversity scholarship almost two years ago, I have had the opportunity to explore a variety of different areas of law through classrooms, journals, and most importantly, externships. I spent the summer of 2008 externing at the District Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles. My experiences of working and assisting the deputy District Attorneys not only helped me improve my research and writing skills, but it also played a significant role in deepening my understanding and appreciation for the work of the litigators, as well as the members of the

judiciary. My interest in becoming a litigator was furthered through my judicial externship last summer. Over the course of ten weeks, I researched and drafted four orders and recommendations that were subsequently included in the court opinions. Through this experience, I truly enjoyed handling significant amount of responsibility as a judicial extern and gained invaluable knowledge and understanding of the judicial process. This experience also inspired me to replace classes with a full-time externship during this semester through the Placement Program Offered by UC Berkeley, School of Law. As a result, I currently serve as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Judge Arthur L. Alarcon who has served on the Ninth Circuit for over thirty years. In addition to the invaluable research and writing skills, this experience also offers a unique opportunity to enhance my substantive knowledge of law as I have the opportunity to assist and work with individuals with extensive experience and knowledge of law. The combination of all these experiences has furthered my interest in law and has contributed to my desire to become a litigator.”

***Sahar Nayeri, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2008 scholarship recipient.***

“I am very excited to be finishing my last year of law school this year. I am in my second quarter (Winter quarter) and I am mostly spending it at the California Attorney General's Office, specifically in the Antitrust department. I will be taking classes at Stanford again during my last and final quarter (Spring quarter) and then I'll be forever done with classes!

I'll be moving to Arizona once I finish taking the bar. I got a clerkship with Judge Mary Schroeder of the 9th Circuit in Arizona and will be living there for a year. I am very excited for this opportunity and can't wait to start my adventure.

I am always deeply grateful for the support Farella Braun + Martel has afforded me. My first year of law school was definitely my hardest. I was also insecure about my potential as a lawyer, but getting that scholarship and recognition from FBM boosted my confidence and helped me to shoot for bigger things. So thank you and please extend my gratitude to the attorneys at FBM as well.”

***Cam Phan, Stanford Law School, 2008 scholarship recipient.***

“I continue to be blessed with great opportunities. Last summer, I was a summer associate at Reed Smith LLP in the Los Angeles office. I have been invited to return as a full time associate after I graduate. During the Fall semester, I was a judicial extern to Chief Judge Vaughn Walker of the Federal District Court. Currently, I am externing for Justice James Lambden at the courts of appeal.”

***Tuan Uong, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2008 scholarship recipient.***

“The scholarship has helped me financially, academically, and emotionally. Financially, it mitigated the extra costs associated with pursuing my foreign internships - costs that are not adequately covered by financial aid. Academically, I was able to expose myself to environments that would have otherwise been unavailable to me due to lack of funding.

Emotionally, the scholarship significantly reduced my financially-related stress, and prevented the disappointment associated with not being able to pursue these opportunities. With regards to the latter, this is especially significant when other students have the means to take advantage of such opportunities because they have parental assistance - the scholarship helped close this gap.”

***Jessica Brown, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2007 scholarship recipient.***

"I am currently an associate with Milbank Tweed in New York. The scholarship helped me pay for my law school expenses and for housing during my summer internships in New York."

***Vina Ha, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2007 scholarship recipient.***

"I summered with Manatt my 2L year, and accepted my offer to return as an associate in their San Francisco office. After graduation and the bar, I traveled throughout Asia, Australia, and New Zealand and volunteered with a development project in Laos.

The scholarship has truly helped me with my finances for tuition and books. Instead of working three jobs like I did as an undergraduate, I was able to work just one job and focus on school and extracurricular activities, which has really enriched my experience at Boalt. I think the program is wonderful, and hope you continue the program or expand it. I think the program can foster continuing relationships between past scholars, current scholars and attorneys, and it would be great to have a network of students and practicing attorneys discuss current issues in law and how we can continually work towards positive change in whatever we choose to do."

***Samorn Selim, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2007 scholarship recipient.***

"I am currently practicing with Greenberg Traurig LLP's Intellectual Property and Technology, Media and Telecommunications practice group. I am very grateful and honored to have been a recipient of FBM's 1L Diversity Scholarship. As a single parent and struggling law student, the scholarship was a tremendous help in just making ends meet. At the time I was considering several summer internships that paid very little if anything. While I ended up with a good paying summer internship my first summer of law school, the scholarship from FBM allowed me to consider employment opportunities regardless of the salary. FBM not only gave me money, they gave me confidence and mentoring that I am sure helped me to be a successful law student. Receiving the scholarship acknowledged my accomplishments and meeting and spending time with the many amazing attorneys at FBM helped me to understand and embrace the career I was embarking upon. I am very thankful to the firm for the many positive encounters I have had with it."

***Desiree Almendral, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2006 scholarship recipient.***

"I'm just starting my second year of practice at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, where I work on general litigation cases with an emphasis on employment and unfair business practices. My FBM scholarship really helped me to facilitate my summer employment opportunities. Many first year students, particularly from diverse backgrounds don't have the benefit of paid employment. An FBM scholarship helps soften the blow of this difficult burden. Also, the celebration dinner with the attorneys from the firm is exciting and inspirational."

***Sarah Asplin, U.C. Davis School of Law, 2006 scholarship recipient.***

"I graduated in Spring 2008 with a J.D. from Boalt and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. I am now a second year associate in the Silicon Valley office of Latham & Watkins.

Receiving the scholarship in the spring of my 1L year enabled me to make ends meet through my first summer while I externed for Ninth Circuit Judge Marsha Berzon. Although our school provides some funding for students interning in the non-profit and government sectors, judicial externships do not qualify for school funding, and I was extremely grateful for FBM's financial support. The scholarship also helped to defray some of the expenses in my 2L year as well, allowing me to enjoy the occasional meal out and to spend less time worrying about my finances and more time just being a regular law student."

***Jenny Lam, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2006 scholarship recipient.***

“My law school experience allowed me to learn so much about myself and the world around me. It is indescribable. Though law school has been incredibly rewarding, it has nonetheless been a lonely journey. I was the only Hmong student among a student body of around 900. Your scholarship has been particularly meaningful to me because it recognizes the lack of diversity in the legal profession and the need to remedy this problem.

Rather than having to work to make a few extra dollars while going to school, the funds from your generous scholarship have allowed me to forego work and to focus more on my schoolwork as well as actively participate in extra curricular activities. This way, I have been able to take full advantage of the law school experience. Your generous scholarship has gone a long way for me. I hope that you continue to award this scholarship so that other underrepresented minorities may have an opportunity to fully embrace the law school experience.”

***Nou Lee, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2006 scholarship recipient.***

“I am a second year associate at Farella Braun + Martel LLP and I’m glad to hear that the Diversity Scholarship Program is continuing in full force. It’s such a special program because it gives students, who might have financial pressures, the opportunity to explore public interest work after their first year of law school. Before law school, I was a social worker at an emergency domestic violence shelter for Asian women and children, and I came to law school because I wanted to learn about the legal side of DV work. FBM’s scholarship allowed me to do just that. I worked at a direct legal services organization dealing with domestic violence and immigration in the Asian Pacific Islander community during my 1L summer. At the same time, I was still free to explore other interests, such as environmental and intellectual property law. Although my focus has shifted away from direct legal public interest work as a career, I am thankful that I had the opportunity to try it out, and I think it would have been much harder to do public interest work that summer if it hadn’t been for the FBM scholarship. Not only did the experience help me figure out what and where I wanted to be career-wise, I also learned how I wanted to effect change for the Asian American community: through legal scholarship. I wrote a paper on constitutional law curriculum reform and immigration, and my experience doing public interest work that summer (made possible by the FBM scholarship) greatly contributed to the work.”

***Janel Thamkul, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2006 scholarship recipient.***

“Since graduating from law school, I worked at a big firm, Davis Polk & Wardwell, in New York City as a litigator. There I spent about half of my time on pro bono work, because my passion really lies in civil rights work. I’ve since left DPW and am now at Sanford, Wittels & Heisler, a civil rights firm that represents plaintiffs in a variety of civil rights cases. I love it! I’m getting great experience and working on cases I really believe in. I’m still in New York and am having a great time. I’m also on the Young Professionals Committee of the Board to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.”

***Deepika Bains, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2005 scholarship recipient.***

“I first off would like to thank Farella for the continued support I received throughout my law school career. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals of pursuing a legal education by selecting me as a recipient for the diversity scholarship.

I commend Farella for its continued support in diversity efforts. Part of my drive to increase diversity in law firms is due to the scholarships I have received. This scholarship meant so much more than the financial assistance it provided, it allowed me to get to know others and

network with other attorneys who believe in diversity. In fact, I still keep in touch with the attorneys and the recruiter at Farella. Their support has not stopped after I received my check; in fact it continues today.

I want to thank Farella again with sincere appreciation, not only for the financial assistance the scholarship provided, but for recognizing my personal attributes and struggles and by giving me hope to make the difference I seek to achieve as an attorney.”

***Tina Naicker, U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2005 diversity scholarship recipient.***

“I graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law and was admitted to practice law in California at the end of 2007. I am working in the Los Angeles office of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, in the IP litigation department. Prior to joining the firm, I externed at the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission in China and the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi.

I am still very much grateful to FBM for the diversity scholarship the firm awarded me. To be honest, my family was having some financial difficulties during that time. The scholarship helped my family meet our mortgage payment and to keep our house. I am sure the scholarship will continue to make a difference in other people's lives, similar to mine.”

***Bryant Yang, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2005 scholarship recipient.***

“I am working as in-house counsel for Safeco Insurance Company in Sacramento. I clerked with Safeco during the summer of my first year and summer of my second year. I also worked for Safeco part-time during my second year of law school. I was hired as a full-time attorney after passing the Bar Exam in May 2007. The scholarship from FBM was a tremendous help. As mentioned above, I worked full-time during my first and second summer, and I also worked during my second year of law school. I just couldn't get by if I wasn't working. My parents weren't able to support me, and the financial aid was not enough considering the increasing law school fees and costs. The FBM scholarship really helped in that I was able to use that money to pay a lot of my bills. Every time I hear about FBM in the news or in the papers, I always think about what FBM did for me to help me get through law school.”

***Kuo Lor, U.C. Davis School of Law, 2004 scholarship recipient.***

“I am a litigation associate at Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP. Of course, especially with these trying financial times and increased tuition for some of the UC schools, financial assistance is crucial and the only option for people that want to have alternatives in their career path. My scholarship permitted me to go to the crimes tribunal in the Hague and do a civil rights clinic, successfully representing a prison inmate in the Ninth Circuit. While I ultimately chose a private firm as my place of employment, the option of doing public interest work was strongly considered and only a possibility since my loans were marginal (at least compared to what they could have been), partially due to the Diversity Scholarship.”

***Anagha Dandekar Clifford, U.C. Davis School of Law, 2002 scholarship recipient.***

“I'm currently a Deputy Public Defender for San Joaquin County. I've been doing this since April 2007. I'm handling misdemeanor cases: from arraignments to pretrial conferences; from violation of probation hearings to jury trials. I love what I'm doing and I definitely could not have gotten to where I am today without the help of the FB+M Diversity Scholarship that I received. In a nutshell, your scholarship allowed me to attain my dream of being a trial attorney. This scholarship was a godsend! I really commend FB+M for doing this.”

***Anna Teruel, Golden Gate University, 2002 scholarship recipient.***

"I am an attorney with The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). After I graduated from Stanford Law School, I clerked for two years in the Eastern District of CA with Judge Lawrence Karlton. I was then granted the Fried Frank/MALDEF fellowship, which is a four-year program. The first two years of the program were with Fried Frank as a litigation associate in their New York office, and I'm now completing the second term of the fellowship at MALDEF. I plan on staying with MALDEF for a third year and am able to continue working as a public interest attorney because I was able to keep my student loans relatively low, thanks to the financial assistance and support I received from programs such as Farella Braun + Martel's diversity scholarship."

***Gladys Limon, Stanford Law School, 2001 scholarship recipient.***