A Gift That Can Never Be Taken Away
7 law students receive KBF scholarships

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can it away from you.  
– B.B. King  
American blues guitarist and songwriter

The KBF Scholarship Committee selected seven students to receive scholarships in 2014. Through generous endowments from individuals and firms, the KBF is able to offer the scholarships. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Case Moses & Zimmerman P.A. Law Student Scholarship

This scholarship is intended to go to a future Kansas lawyer including both Kansas law schools and Creighton University School of Law. This award is specifically given to a second-year student who intends to practice law in the state of Kansas.

Richard W. “Rick” Smith, Washburn University School of Law

Married with two small children, Smith and his family came to Kansas from Ohio. He chose Kansas because his long-term plans include living and raising his family in Kansas. He is a law clerk for the Kansas Corporation Commission and hopes his experience there will help him make a valuable contribution to Kansas in several ways. Smith is involved in several community activities and service to others is an important part of his life.

“The Kansas Bar Foundation is a positive reflection of the good that exists in the Kansas legal community. The scholarship benefits the community at large as much as it aids in my legal education. As a recipient of this scholarship, I feel a desire and obligation to contribute to the Kansas legal community in the years to come.”

The Justice Alex M. Fromme Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship is provided to a law student attending the University of Kansas Law School or Washburn University Law School who is committed to practicing law in the state of Kansas.

Katherine E. “Kate” Marples, University of Kansas School of Law

A native of Dodge City, Marples attended the University of Kansas and earned a B.A. in Germanic languages and literatures. She has lived her entire life in Kansas except for a year of study abroad in Germany. She will clerk for a federal magistrate judge for two years and then plans to practice in Kansas. She and her law school partner will be representing KU at the Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition in late February 2014. When she is not busy with law school, she spends time rowing and coaching the KU Crew team.

“Receiving this scholarship has been another example of how people dedicated to the state and this profession make a huge difference in the lives of students. This scholarship is going to help me make it through the last semester of school without having to take out any loans. That is truly amazing with the cost of a legal education. Beyond the financial support this award also serves as a reminder, as I am getting ready to graduate, that giving back to the legal community is important, and I plan to do my part.”

Maxine S. Thompson Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship promotes the practice of law in the state of Kansas by awarding a law student, originally from Kansas and attending the University of Kansas School of Law or Washburn University School of Law an annual scholarship. The award recipient must have completed no less than 60 hours toward a law degree and must plan to practice in a rural Kansas area, preferably western Kansas.

Christopher A. “Chris” Rohr, Washburn University School of Law

A native of Colby, Rohr attended Colby Community College and Fort Hays State University prior to attending law school. He has interned for the Washburn Law Clinic, has participated in numerous community events, including assisting third grade students in putting on their own mock trial. He plans to practice in a rural Kansas community.

“I am very grateful to receive this scholarship and it is another example of how the KBA is committed to help future attorneys in Kansas. This scholarship is going to help me make it through the last semester of school and through bar prep without having to be so dependent on loans. Beyond the financial support, this award will also put me in a better position to help the people in my hometown community who have helped me through my law school journey.”

The John E. Shamberg Memorial Law Student Scholarship

This scholarship is for a Washburn University School of Law student who has an interest in plaintiff’s work as well as a bona fide intention to practice law in Kansas.

Kurtis K. Wiard, Washburn University School of Law

A native of Dodge City, Wiard attended Little River High School and earned a degree in political science at Washburn University. After graduation, he will work as a research attorney for the Hon. David E. Bruns on the Kansas Court of Appeals. He is currently the Notes Editor of the Washburn Law Journal and works as a law clerk for the Kansas Department of Labor. He has previously worked as an extern for the Hon. David J. Waxse and was a Member of Parliament research assistant in London for Rob Wilson MP.
“Thank you to the Kansas Bar Foundation for its support of my legal education. I am honored to receive the John E. Shamberg Memorial Scholarship. Like Mr. Shamberg, I hope to serve the people of my state, particularly those who cannot afford legal representation.”

Hinkle Law Firm Student Scholarship

This scholarship shall be given to a law student at the University of Kansas School of Law or Washburn University School of Law. Applicants should demonstrate a bona fide intention to practice law in Kansas. Because community service is extremely important to Hinkle Law Firm LLC, applicants must also demonstrate a history of community involvement to be considered.

Kayla Lynn Roehler, Washburn University School of Law

A Washburn Rural High School and Kansas State University graduate, Roehler intends to remain in Kansas to practice law. She is considering practicing in the areas of criminal law or medical malpractice. She plans to intern with the Shawnee County District Attorney’s Office during the summer of 2014. Roehler has served as a volunteer for several organizations, including Girl Scouts of America, cancer awareness programs, and disability awareness programs.

“I would like to thank the Kansas Bar Foundation for selecting me to receive the Hinkle Scholarship. Working to help the community has always been important to me and my family; my earliest memories are community service projects with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. I plan to continue working in the community after graduation. A major goal of mine is to help find the cure to pancreatic cancer by 2020. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth deadliest cancer with a life span of less than five years after diagnosis. I also plan to stay involved with the Race Against Breast Cancer. I plan to continue running the race and raise funds to provide no-cost mammograms to men and women of Shawnee and the six surrounding counties. I would like to, again, thank the Kansas Bar Foundation for this honor.”

Lathrop & Gage Student Scholarship Award

This scholarship shall be given to a law student at the University of Kansas School of Law or Washburn University School of Law. Applicants should demonstrate a bona fide intention to practice law in Kansas. Applicants must demonstrate a history of community involvement to be considered.

Thomas Hiatt, University of Kansas School of Law

A fourth generation Kansan, Hiatt intends to practice law in Johnson County. He values the Kansas work ethic and has worked various jobs, including as an assistant manager for the Shawnee Mission Park Marina and as a resident assistant for KU Student Housing/residence halls. He has also given time to help others by volunteering at a food pantry, participating in Relay for Life, and organizing various events and community service activities for Phi Alpha Delta at KU.

“As a proud Kansan and a future member of the Kansas Bar, I am honored to have received the Lathrop & Gage Scholarship Award. Being a lawyer is so much more than just doing your job; it is about being an upstanding member of the community and giving back. When our communities are strengthened, we all are strengthened, and I look forward to contributing to the work the Kansas Bar Foundation is doing to help those in need.”

Frank C. and Jeanne M. Norton Scholarship Award

This scholarship is available exclusively to Washburn University School of Law students in their second or third year of study who are not receiving any other scholarship support.

Aaron Othmer, Washburn University School of Law

A graduate of Shawnee Heights High School and the University of Kansas, Othmer plans to use his environmental studies degree and his law degree to work on land and environmental issues in Kansas and surrounding areas. He plans to participate in several of the programs offered by Washburn’s Oil and Gas Law Center.

“I would like to thank the Kansas Bar Association for choosing me to receive the Frank Norton Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship symbolizes the hard work I put in over the last few years and will provide incentive to continue my role as a contributing citizen to the surrounding community.”

The scholarship recipients were recognized in February at the Court Appreciation Dinner. In addition, they had the opportunity to meet members of the families of the donors who established the scholarships. Contact Anne Woods, KBA public services manager, if you would like additional information about establishing a KBF scholarship fund or contributing to an existing fund at awoods@ksbar.org or at (785) 234-5696.