

2020 BESLA SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS



KOREY J. TURNER has a BA in Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management, with a concentration in Music Business from Columbia College Chicago. A passionate multi-hyphenate, while in college he founded both an independent record label and a branding and marketing firm focused on developing young musicians, media makers, and early stage startups. He pursued his JD/MBA at Howard University School of Law to more intimately understand the relationship between entertainment dealmaking and strategic management. Also a writer who discusses the intersections of race, entertainment, politics, and law, he aims to use his varied professional talents to cultivate entrepreneurship and socio-economic equity across the Black diaspora.

WANJIKU "KAZI" MUHIRE

'22 comes from Tracy, California, and is a second-year law student at the University of the District of Columbia, School of Law. As a second-year, Muhire interns at J. Walker & Associates, L.L.P., and manages a music label, All In-House Entertainment L.L.C. Muhire is very passionate about "gospel," "hip-hop," and "R'n'B" music. During the pandemic of 2020, Muhire evolved her passion into her second entrepreneurial venture when she launched a music label with her childhood friends turned label partners. As the Vice President of Business Affairs for All In-House Ent., Muhire brings her Silicon Valley and grassroots organizing experience to re-envision what a music label can provide for artists and consumers. Her goal is to build an artist-centric label that facilitates artistic growth and the financial development of our next generation of artists. Now, as a law clerk for J. Walker & Associates, L.L.P., Muhire also gains hands-on experience dealing with the legal matters that artists, songwriters, publishers and labels face when they engage with one another in the entertainment world. After graduation, Muhire plans to take the bar and further venture into the world of entertainment law by growing her business and protecting artists' interests.



DREW EMERSON, is a first-year JD/MBA law student (3L) at Howard University School of Law (HUSL). His upbringing consisted of his mother and father working in the music industry and learning to play three instruments by the time he was nine years old. This upbringing led him to become the first Music Business & Technology SoundArt graduate at Johnson C. Smith University, boasting a 3.85 GPA. His passion for entertainment grew during his first and second years at HUSL. During his first summer, Drew became the first law school legal summer associate in the history of Essence Communications. The following year he was selected as one of the inaugural cohort members of the Howard Entertainment Program (HEP). The program is a partnership between Amazon Studios and Howard University designed to diversify the pipeline for talent across the entertainment industry. Through this program, he became the first Business Affairs intern at Amazon Studios and later became a legal intern for Amazon Music. Currently, he mentors 1Ls and 2Ls focused on entertainment law through his position as a student liaison for the HEP, and through his membership in HUSL's Sports and Entertainment Law Student Association (SELSA). As a black entertainer, he understands the value of having people like himself engaged in the purposeful action of protecting black storytellers. It is thus imperative to perpetuate and expand the entertainment law field. Social Engineers come in many forms, and the entertainment industry is the perfect soundstage for Drew's endeavors.

ANGELICA PRINCE

is a Haitian American, born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. From a young age, Ms. Prince always knew she wanted to become an attorney. She attended Fort Lauderdale High School and participated in their pre-law magnet program. After excelling in high school, Ms. Prince attended Florida State University and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Angelica Prince is currently a third-year law student at the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law. Ms. Prince is the President of the Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society; the Business Managing Editor for FAMU Law Review and an Associate Judge for FAMU's Student Government Association Judicial Branch. After her first year of law school, Ms. Prince knew she wanted to pursue a career as an entertainment attorney specifically in the music industry. She has participated as a student volunteer for BESLA's Annual Conference. Additionally, she volunteered as a research contributor for a publication for the ABA Entertainment & Sports Lawyer Journal. She was selected to continue her volunteer work by participating in the ABA 42nd Entertainment and Sports Industries 1st Virtual Conference.

Ms. Prince is an advocate for diversity in the entertainment and sports industry which led to her participation in organizations such as the T. Howard Foundation and FutureNow. During her spare time, Ms. Prince writes articles for her music blog, Floconic. Ms. Prince aims to continue to be an asset in any way as she strives to become an entertainment attorney.



TORRENCE "T. RIFF" BURNETT is a current Evening Division 2L student of Southern University Law Center. He is a longtime professional singer-songwriter and producer who evolved into an astute artist manager and record label executive. Using knowledge that he gathered from his active duty service in the US Army and his ongoing higher learning studies, Torrence has found the perfect balance between business execution and creator advocacy. He is the former General Manager and Executive Vice President of RIU Records, an upstream label and joint venture in the Universal Music Group ecosystem. The label enjoyed exponential growth, bolstering over 3 billion streams and 12 million digital units sold during his leadership. He was instrumental in developing and implementing plans for supplemental strategic partnerships with Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group. This plan resulted in derivative imprints in the respective systems, becoming home to several innovative Hip-Hop and R&B recording artists. Torrence, while being an evening division law student, works tirelessly as a legal assistant and office manager at Baston Law, PC. Additionally, he sustains his role as Director of Operations of BADINC/PAMCO where he continues to influence the brand and asset management of several noteworthy recording artists and songwriters. With all of this, he endeavors fervently to serve on the Executive Board for the Fort Worth Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., President of the Board of Directors for the Heavenly Touched Community Center, and donates both time and money to the furtherance of community development.

ALEXIS WHITAKER

is a second-year law student at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She is expected to graduate in May of 2022. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism and communication from the University of Arizona in 2019.

Alexis spent her first law school summer as a legal intern at ViacomCBS for the Nickelodeon Network. Throughout her summer internship Alexis enhanced her legal writing skills as well as contract drafting and negotiation skills. Alexis also participated in several negotiation workshops over the summer. In light of Alexis' performance at ViacomCBS, she was offered an internship extension through the fall semester. Alexis' internship experience at Nickelodeon confirmed that she wants to work in entertainment law in a business and legal affairs role in the future.

Alexis also organized and hosted "The New Normal: Covid-19's Impact on Entertainment Law" CLE panel in connection with the Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS) at Thurgood Law. Alexis holds an eBoard position as "historian" for SELS. During Alexis' 1L year, she competed in the Halley Catherine Shaw Mock Trial Competition and Alexis' team won the first-place title in that competition. Alexis looks forward to future work opportunities in entertainment law and beginning her career as an entertainment attorney. Alexis hopes to increase diversity and minority representation within the entertainment industry as a future attorney.



JERAMEY VAUSS, is a third-year law student at North Carolina Central University School of Law. He is twenty-five years old and originally from Fort Washington, Maryland. Jeramey attended "The Alabama State University" where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. He enjoys traveling to new places and trying new foods. His favorite place that he has visited is the beautiful country of Kenya. Additionally, Jeramey has always had a passion for sports especially the game of baseball. He played throughout high school and was given the opportunity to be an assistant coach at a local high school in Maryland after graduating from college. Currently, at the law school, he serves as the vice-president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society. In this role, he seeks to give his peers insight into the sports and entertainment world by sharing his experiences and connecting them with current professionals in the field. He also serves as the executive editor of the Science and Intellectual Property Law Review. In this role, he guides the junior-editors in their research as the law review contributes to the advancement of the fields of science and intellectual property. Jeramey was fortunate enough to have been selected to be published in the next volume for my article that focused on the "Fair Pay to Play Act" that was passed in California and the effects it would have on the National Collegiate Athletics Association.