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WESTERN NY LEGAL DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR



The Western New York Legal Diversity Career Fair Announces Winner of Essay Contest

January 7, 2025 – The Western New York Legal Diversity Career Fair, a collaborative partnership of local bar associations, local law firms and the University at Buffalo School of Law, is thrilled to announce Ms. Anastasya Wilson as the winner of its 2024 student essay contest. Ms. Wilson, a first-year law student at the University at Buffalo School of Law, impressed the judges with her insightful essay answering the question “What is your definition of success for a legal professional?”

Ms. Wilson will be presented with a \$2,500 prize, co-sponsored by local law firms Hodgson Russ LLP and Phillips Lytle LLP, on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at the Bar Association of Erie County.

“Since I wrote about a more holistic approach to measuring success, winning the essay contest reassured me that I am entering into a legal field that shares similar values or at least values my perspective.” Said Ms. Wilson. “Although this may not hold true for all places or may seem optimistic, I will be sure to carry these values with me into the legal community, and I hope to emulate success in a way that I can serve as a resource to disadvantaged communities looking to work within the legal community.”

James Harrington, President of the Minority Bar Association, said “I am still amazed by the outstanding and well written responses we received from all the candidates. However, Anastasya Wilson’s essay was particularly impressive as she hit on many specific points and relevant issues that affect today’s legal world. Great job to all who participated, excellent work Anastasya!”

Lauren Breen, President of the Bar Association of Erie County, stated, “We received many excellent essay submissions from students this year, but Ms. Wilson’s stood out. The BAEC’s commitment to improving diversity in the legal profession is unwavering and the Career Fair is a meaningful way to further our core values.

“Hodgson Russ is excited to present Anastasya with this honor,” said Hodgson Russ Hiring Partner, Patrick J. Hines. “Part of being a successful attorney is understanding the importance of developing trust, earning respect, and building client relationships. Anastasya has already proven herself to have the gumption and fortitude necessary to succeed in the legal world. We look forward to watching her grow in her career.”

“Phillips Lytle remains dedicated to fostering and building diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, and we are honored to have been one of the founding sponsors of the WNY Legal Diversity Career Fair,” said Phillips Lytle’s Diversity Partner, Craig Leslie. “We congratulate Ms. Wilson on her achievement, were impressed with her thoughtful insights on how promoting diversity and inclusion are essential components of measuring what it means to be successful in the legal profession and share her commitment to giving back to the communities we serve.”

ABOUT THE WESTERN NEW YORK LEGAL DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

The Western New York Legal Diversity Career Fair is a collaborative partnership between the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, the Bar Association of Erie County, University at Buffalo School of Law, the Women's Bar Association of Western New York, WNY Chapter, and the many law firms and legal organizations around Western New York. The Career Fair's mission is to help build a more diverse legal workforce in the Western New York Region. The Career Fair is for law students, JDs, and licensed attorneys, with the goal of increasing representation of people from diverse racial, religious, ability, gender, and sexual orientation backgrounds.

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