

When There Are Nine Scholarship Project Launches Fundraising Campaign

NEW YORK (October 26, 2023) – The [When There Are Nine Scholarship Project, \(WTA9\)](#), a program established by alumnae of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) in partnership with the Federal Bar Council and Federal Bar Foundation in 2020 to honor the legacy of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, today announced its new scholar class and that it is embarking on a fundraising campaign in order to further support existing and future scholars.

WTA9 honors the legacy of Justice Ginsburg by furthering her commitment to expanding career opportunities for women in the law and promoting equity and diversity in the legal profession. Scholars are selected based on their academic achievement, commitment to community service, and perseverance in the face of adversity – character traits embodied by the late Justice. In just three years, WTA9 has already provided tuition assistance and mentorship opportunities to nine outstanding women law students out of nearly 1,000 applications received.

The mentorship aspect of the WTA9 Project is unique because it affords the scholars access to a community of distinguished and accomplished SDNY alumnae. Scholars come from all over the country and are studying at a diverse group of law schools including Yale, Columbia, Rutgers and Fordham. They have secured clerkships including at a number of major law firms and for federal judges as well as not-for-profits and legal advocacy groups.

"We are gratified by the success of our Project and proud of our current scholars, each of whom has demonstrated remarkable promise. It is our earnest hope that we can raise the funding necessary to expand our reach and provide assistance and support to the many deserving law students who apply," said Jessica Ortiz, Chair of the Selection Committee. "Our scholars are already honoring Justice Ginsburg's legacy, and with special access to leaders in the New York legal community, we believe our scholars will continue to embody excellence in the classroom and beyond."

"We are proud to advance accessibility and equity in law by elevating the next generation of women leaders and are deeply grateful to the generous mentors and donors who continue to make this project possible," said Rebecca Monck Ricigliano a founder of the When There Are Nine Scholarship Project and a partner in Crowell & Moring's White Collar & Regulatory Enforcement Group. "We thank the Federal Bar Foundation, Federal Bar Council, and the Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney's Office alumni for their continued dedication to breaking down barriers and championing diverse young talent."

"Our unique mentorship model opens doors and encourages success, and we are honored to provide this opportunity and financial support to these deserving law students," said Carrie H. Cohen, a founder of the When There Are Nine Scholarship Project and a partner and co-chair of Morrison Foerster's Investigations + White Collar Defense Group. "We are beyond excited about the Project's ongoing success and look forward to continuing this tradition of providing a runway to a fruitful education and legal career."

Read more about the most recent recipients:

- **Gabrielle Cappelletti** is from Chapel Hill, NC. After successfully pursuing legal emancipation at age 17, Gabrielle explored educational and other opportunities that she independently funded and supported. Her positive experience with the legal system inspired her desire to eventually become a lawyer in order to remove barriers and empower those in vulnerable positions.

Gabrielle graduated with a B.A. in Romance Languages and Culture from Mount Holyoke College, where she was awarded several academic prizes. After graduating, Gabrielle taught English to elementary students in Madrid, Spain, where she spent her junior year abroad. She has also worked as a research analyst and legal intern at the Public Utility Law Project of New York, where she acted as a liaison between utility companies and low-income utility customers. This fall, Gabrielle entered her first year at Rutgers Law School.

- **Alondra Vázquez López** is a first-generation, Mexican-Guatemalan from San Rafael, California. Her early experiences with the complications of migration instilled in her a deep, personal passion for migration reform. After graduating from Yale University with a B.A. in Ethnicity, Race and Migration, Alondra was selected as a 2021 Rhodes Scholar. In addition to her extensive community service and direct services work, including with asylum clients in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, Alondra has an MSc. in Migration Studies from the University of Oxford, and is currently an MFA candidate at the University's Ruskin School of Art. As a multidisciplinary artist, she explores issues related to migration, labor, and race in the Americas, motivated by her desire to make art inspired by and for her community through video, painting, and collage. This fall, Alondra entered her first year at Columbia Law School. She ultimately plans to use her law degree to improve migration laws and policies, informed by her steadfast dedication to transparency, accessibility, and affordability.

About When There Are Nine

The When There Are Nine Scholarship Project was established in 2020 in partnership with the Federal Bar Foundation by a group of women lawyers who served together as Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the Southern District of New York. The Project's mission is to honor the lifelong work of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by creating a scholarship and related programming that will advance equity and diversity within the legal profession and continue the late Justice's many efforts to expand career opportunities for women attorneys.

More information on the When There Are Nine Scholarship Project can be found [here](#). The project is funded exclusively by charitable contributions. Donations to the project can be made [here](#).

Members of the When There Are Nine Scholarship Project Steering Committee include:

- Carrie H. Cohen – Co-chair of the Fundraising Committee, Morrison Foerster
- Carolina A. Fornos, Co-chair of the Mentoring Committee, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
- Dani R. James – Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
- Amanda Kramer – Covington & Burling LLP
- Sharon Cohen Levin, Co-chair of the Fundraising Committee, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
- Rebecca Martin, Chair of the Programming Committee, Jones Day
- Jessica Ortiz, Chair of the Selection Committee
- Cristy Phillips
- Rebecca Monck Ricigliano – Crowell & Moring LLP
- Aja G. Stephens – Federal Bar Council
- Jocelyn E. Strauber
- Wendy H. Waszmer, Co-chair of the Mentoring Committee, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

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