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Boston College Law School

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## 3L Lauren Schall Selected as 2016 Oliver Wendell Holmes Scholarship Recipient

2016 NEWS ARCHIVE

03/21/16

Boston College Law School third-year student Lauren Schaal has been selected as the recipient of the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2016 Oliver Wendell Holmes Scholarship. The MBA's Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship awards a \$10,000 scholarship to a third-year law student from a Massachusetts law school who is committed to providing legal assistance to underrepresented individuals and communities in the state upon graduating. In order to qualify for the award, applicants must demonstrate a strong and specific commitment to serve the public interest, have a proven record of hard work and academic accomplishment, and have demonstrated integrity and honesty.

Schaal will be working as a full-time staff attorney at Community Legal Aid in the Family Law Unit in the fall. Community Legal Aid (CLA) is a non-profit program providing free civil legal services to low-income and elderly clients in central and western Massachusetts. Based in CLA's Worcester office, Schaal will assist individuals with cases involving family law matters including divorce, child support, visitation, and custody. The majority of her clients will be survivors of domestic violence. In addition to having an active client caseload, she will also engage in community outreach and education, and will work closely with community partners including domestic violence service providers.

Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Schaal has been working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault for the past seven years in shelters, crisis centers, and legal programs. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 2013, earning of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Communication Studies. While in Nebraska, Schaal became a women's advocate at The Friendship Home, an emergency domestic violence shelter. There she worked as a counselor, hotline staff, and assisted residents with their daily needs. She is also a certified rape crisis counselor, and has worked as a legal advocate at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. This past summer, she also worked for the legal department of Casa Myrna Vasquez, the largest provider of shelter and support services to domestic survivors in the Boston area. At Casa Myrna Vasquez, she researched family law matters, assisted attorneys in divorce, child custody, and restraining order cases and performed intake for new clients.

As the Massachusetts Bar Association scholarship recipient, Schaal will also be given leadership opportunities in the MBA. The scholarship will be awarded at the MBA's Annual Dinner on April 28, 2016, at the Westin Boston Waterfront.

