

## **ANNA C. MANUEL WINS SCHOLARSHIP FOR TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS**

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On November 14, 2013, the USF Women Lawyers Committee awarded Anna C. Manuel with the annual Scholarship for Transitional Students. Applicants for the Scholarship are considered based on financial need, community service, parenting or gainful employment before Law School, and an interest in community service after Law School. The Honorable Maria Rivera '74, Associate Justice, First District Court, Division Four, presented the award, and Dean John Trasvina spoke on "Training the Next Generation of Women Lawyers and Leaders." Nossaman LLP was the sponsor of this event.

Anna was selected because of her strong commitment to human rights and community service, and her desire to carry these interests forward as a practicing lawyer. Justice Rivera was very pleased to present the award to Anna and says Anna "personifies the commitment to public service and legal rights that USF is known to support strongly, and it is exciting that she has chosen USF to pursue her legal career." Justice Rivera stated that Anna's demonstrated commitment to human rights fits perfectly with USF's long tradition of fighting for human rights around the world, and advised Anna that she "chose well" in selecting USF. Justice Rivera also, noted that Anna's commitment to being a thinker, researcher, writer and doer, was nothing short of extraordinary.

Anna is a woman of strong determination and self-reliance. Anna has worked for the last 20 years, and out of necessity worked throughout the eight years it took her to complete her undergraduate degree in Anthropology, graduating Cum Laude from San Francisco State University in 2012. Anna is also the winner of USF's Merit Plus Scholarship, an award based on pre-law school academic achievement. She is currently working while in law school at Zazie, a woman owned San Francisco restaurant.

While working and going to school, Anna has also managed to volunteer with a number of non-profit organizations, including the Physicians Organizing Committee of San Francisco, advocating for the human right to health care through grass roots organizing; the People's Legal Center in San Francisco, researching violence between Black and Asian youths in San Francisco's southeastern communities; International Educational Development and the Association of Humanitarian Lawyers, advocating for migrant's rights at the U.S.-Mexico border; and, advocating against human rights abuses, specifically genocide and enforced disappearances for an NGO providing statements and information to the United Nations. Most recently, she volunteered with No More Deaths in Tucson, Arizona, providing life sustaining humanitarian aid to migrants by supplying water, food and medical treatment.

Anna was honored to accept the award, and was pleased that the award will assist her in her efforts to work for human rights. Anna developed her interest in human rights many years ago, working in a garment factory on the East Coast, experiencing questionable human rights

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conditions, and realizing how little leverage employees who were almost disposable had. The more she looked into the situation, the more she realized how many human rights issues there were to fight for.

Anna is a first-year, part-time law student, and the USF Women Lawyers Committee was proud to award Anna this scholarship. It looks forward to watching her career develop, and it anticipates that the tenacity that she has applied to achieving her personal goals, will be channeled into making a big difference in the lives of the people she will impact as a lawyer.

The attendees were pleased to see the new dean of the law school, Dean John Trasviña, make his first speech to the USF Women Lawyers Committee. He noted that since 1989 the majority of USF's law school students have been women and students of color. He recognized that while this is a challenging time for law schools who on average across the nation have suffered a 40% drop in applications, it is always time to focus on the curriculum to ensure that it is flexible and nimble, and ready to serve the profession, which is something that the USF professors have always been able to do. He stated that "women's decision-making roles in law, government, industry and technology will grow dramatically and the investment that the Women Lawyers Committee makes in our students is vital to the progress of all of us."

*USF Women Lawyers Committee, Celebrating More Than a Quarter Century of Supporting Women Attorneys and Law Students*



Charlotte Westfall (Attorney, Former Scholarship Recipient), Anna Manuel (1st Year, USF School of Law, Current Scholarship Recipient), Alex Leenson (2nd Year, USF School of Law, Former Scholarship Recipient), Maya Grey Kevin (Attorney, Former Scholarship Recipient), and Stanley Radtke (Attorney, Former Scholarship Recipient)



John Trasviña (Dean of USF School of Law), The Honorable Maria Rivera (Justice, California Court of Appeal, First District), Anna Manuel (1st Year, USF School of Law, Transitional Student Scholarship Recipient), Yuliya Oryol (Partner, Nossaman LLP and President of USF Women Lawyers Committee), and Susan Mendelsohn (Vice President and one of the Founders of USF Women Lawyers Committee)