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# **McGill law student Simone Samuels awarded national scholarship for black students**

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December 2, 2010. 10:25 pm



Simone Samuels, a McGill

University law student, is the recipient of the 2010 [Black Business and Professional Association \(BBPA\)](#) national scholarship for black law students.

Samuels was awarded the \$5,000 annual renewable scholarship sponsored by national law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP during a presentation ceremony on Nov. 25 at the Toronto Police College in Etobicoke, just outside Toronto.

“We are happy to invest in and support the next generation of young professionals in a number of ways, including the BBPA national scholarship,” said Brian Leonard, Toronto co-chair of [FMC’s National Diversity and Inclusiveness Initiative](#).

“Simone’s hard work, dedication and enthusiasm are important to FMC’s success, and we are delighted to honour her as this year’s scholarship recipient.”

Samuels recently graduated from York University with a bilingual B.A. Honors degree and holds certificates in Practical Ethics, Law and Social Thought, Bilingualism and Bilingual Excellence. She made the Dean’s List every year of her undergraduate program, and has won numerous academic and community awards.

It was a workplace incident involving a family member that inspired Samuels to help people know and defend their rights.

“I decided to pursue a career in law in order to protect the rights of others,” she said in a statement. “I see tremendous value in using the knowledge of law as a powerful instrument to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

In addition to her stellar academic record, FMC said Samuels has often acted as a catalyst for change within her community.

Last year, she started the Girls in Transition (G.I.T) initiative, a free mentorship program for young black girls fostering the development of their organizational, leadership and communication skills. She is also involved in the Pathfinders Organization and is a long-time volunteer in her church.

“Despite the strained financial situation of my household, I have been able to do well in school and contribute to the community by trying to help others,” said Samuels. “I am thankful to FMC for this investment in my future, and the future of law within Canada.”

The BBPA first established the scholarship fund in 1988 to honour the memory of Harry Jerome, who held

six world track records during the 1960s and represented Canada in three Olympic Games.

Jerome earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in science at the University of Oregon and later become a leader in sports administration in British Columbia. He was admitted to the Order of Canada in 1971 and inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame in 2001.

Photo (FMC): McGill law student Simone Samuels is the 2010 winner of the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) national scholarship award for black law students.

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