



As one of its initiatives in the legal community, the AWA has committed to award \$750 annually to an outstanding law clinic student from each of the two local law schools, whose work has focused on issues important to the AWA. At Tulane, the \$750 award is given to the most outstanding student in the Domestic Violence Law Clinic (as chosen by the Director of the Clinic). At Loyola, the \$750 award is given to the most outstanding student in the family law section of the Law Clinic (to be selected by the family law attorney/advisor at the Clinic).

Our 2018 award recipient from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Family Law Section of the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice is **Bonnie J. Thomas**. In her pursuit of social justice, Bonnie has represented her indigent clients in adoption, custody, divorces, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. She successfully completed seven SIJS cases affording these children an opportunity to become Lawful Permanent Residents. Additionally, Bonnie is the lead attorney in a case of first impression in Louisiana wherein her brief and oral argument convinced the judge to change her previous ruling and allow a father to continue with the case. Bonnie also worked on another notable case where dual paternity is the issue. The case was appealed and the appellate court sent the case back to the trial court to hear the constitutionality of La. C.C. Art. 198. This case will have significant impact in future cases. During

this school year, Bonnie was the student practitioner in 22 cases and logged in over 500 hours. Not only was Bonnie the most active member of the clinic, but she did that while she was a member of the Law Review, the Executive/President of Loyola Trial Advocacy Team, a member of the American Association of Justice Advocacy Competition, and a member of the Association of Women Law Students. Bonnie graduated magna cum laude, earned the Order of the Barrister Recognition, and graduated as a William L. Crowe Scholar. She is also a member of Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi Honor Society, the Federal Bar Association, and the Criminal Law Society.

Our 2018 award recipient from the Tulane Domestic Violence Clinic is **Jessica Greenberg**. Jessica has been a student-attorney in the Clinic since August 2017. During her first month in the Clinic, Jessica, along with co-counsel, handled a contested trial representing a domestic violence survivor in a protective order hearing. Shortly thereafter, Jessica took on another contested hearing, representing a domestic violence survivor who had been strangled in front of her young child. The child, still fearful of her father, did not want to visit with him unsupervised. Jessica represented the client in trial, successfully opposing the father's motion to lift visitation restrictions that required him to also complete therapy. As the year progressed, Jessica jumped into case after case, making the most of her Clinic experience. Most recently, Jessica took on a complex case domestic violence case involving extensive pre-trial discovery and expert witnesses. Even though the trial was scheduled for the middle of exams, Jessica deposed witnesses and took on trial tasks at the last minute when other students were not available. Throughout the year, Jessica showed enormous dedication to her clients, working hundreds of

hours on their cases while also carrying a regular law school course load. She was both a compassionate and passionate advocate for her clients, contacting them on a weekly basis, if only to check in on how they were doing. Jessica impressed her Clinic professors with her extraordinary professional growth during her time in the Clinic; she provided quiet, steady leadership to her fellow students, and became a powerful advocate for her clients in the courtroom. Jessica plans to practice law in New Orleans after graduation.