



STUDENT LAW ACADEMY

Meet the 2021 Scholars



Makene Abwe
East High School (Senior)

Makene is working toward being the first in her family to attend college and she hopes to attend law school. As a lawyer, she hopes to serve as an example for others in her community that you can follow your passions and have the ability to do something for people who are suffering without a voice. At her school, she is on the tennis team and has held the position of team leader for several years where she helps others. She was recently selected as a KC Scholars awardee and plans to attend the University of Central Missouri.



Nejmadin Ahmed
East High School (Senior)

Nejmadin immigrated to the United States with his family through the refugee resettlement process and dreams of becoming a human rights lawyer to combat injustice both in the United States and internationally. He has served as Captain in both cross country and track & field at his school and is a member of Global FC in Kansas City to help support refugees and immigrants coming to the city. He is an avid participant in his government classes at school where he has come to better understand landmark historical legal cases.



Michael Andrade
Sumner Academy of Arts & Science (Junior)

Michael's ultimate goal is to graduate with a degree in Spanish from college, attend law school, and practice labor law. He has an interest in representing unions and fighting for workers' rights. He has always wanted to dedicate his life to helping others, and believes becoming a lawyer is a great way to achieve that goal. He currently participates in Debate, Forensics, and his school's Latino Student Union. Michael has a 4.0 GPA and is on the honor roll.



Ava Autrey
Truman High School (Junior)

Ava has always wanted to work in law enforcement and recently realized the opportunity to help others through a career as a lawyer. Ava's dream is to work with children as either a social worker or a juvenile law lawyer, making a difference for kids experiencing toxic home environments. Ava participates on the Color Guard team, Debate and Forensics, and Mock Trial when active (pre-pandemic).



Jouhel Barron
Allen Village High School (Junior)

Jouhel is interested in not only becoming a lawyer, but potentially pursuing a role in courts as a translator/interpreter for those who speak Spanish. Prior to the pandemic, she volunteered at an elementary dual language school to work with kids struggling with English and to translate for parents who may not understand the teachers. She relates personally with the struggle of learning a new language and wants to help others in the same situation.



Lia Brocius
Center High School (Junior)

Lia is interested in working as a field operative for the FBI. She currently participates in swim team and golf at her school, and is in National Honors Society, Key Club, and Student Government. She has so far taken courses in medical and psychology topics to gain a broad view of several career paths.



Maddison Cunningham
Center High School (Junior)

Maddison is interested in exploring both a career in law enforcement or as a lawyer. She currently enjoys debate and working with others to find solutions. She plans to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Forensic Psychology in college. She is currently involved in Volleyball, Swim, and Soccer at school, and participates in KCPD's Explorers Program.



Karely Gutierrez

Guadalupe Centers High School (Junior)

Karely has been interested in politics and law since a young age, understanding how those topics affect peoples' lives. She is personally interested in immigration and family law, but hopes to learn about other areas through the internship. She hopes to major in Political Science or Philosophy in college, and would like to become a certified interpreter. In school, she currently plays in a mariachi band, and participates on both her high school soccer team and an external club soccer team.



Janeth Infante-Magaña

Allen Village High School (Junior)

Janeth is interested in the law and our justice system. She has been told many times before she should explore a career in law, and plans to use the internship to explore this career path and its possibilities. As a child of immigrants, Janeth wants to gain experience in pursuing her dream and help others from her culture have a better life here in America. Janeth's key accomplishments in high school include participation in Student Council, Photography Club, and Honors Society.



Zayona Law

Grandview High School (Senior)

Zayona plans to pursue a degree in Criminal/Social Justice and hopes to change the justice system we currently live with. She hopes this internship will help her understand different points of view and prepare her for a future involving the legal system. She is currently a Varsity cheerleader at her school.



Luna Marin-Rodriguez

Wyandotte High School (Junior)

Luna hopes to bring attention to unjust discrimination in the justice system, and has a passion for helping those failed by the system. She was a part of her previous school's Diversity Club, participates in Debate Club, regularly volunteers through her church with Harvesters giving food to those in need, and plays electric bass for a band. She hopes to major in Criminology and minor in Psychology in college.



Ian McKee
Center High School (Junior)

Ian is a participant in Missouri YMCA Youth And Government and his school's Political Science Club. He sees flaws in our current government system and wants to help move towards a better solution, specifically where all people are treated fairly. His dream is to obtain his J.D., become a judge, and eventually sit as a Supreme Court Justice.



Emmanuel Olatunde
Ruskin High School (Junior)

Emmanuel has participated in Debate KC and National Speech and Debate competitions as a varsity debater, and has found great enjoyment in all parts of the process. He enjoys putting in the time to research a topic, formulate arguments, and speak out for a topic. Emmanuel was born and raised in Nigeria and moved to the U.S. in 9th grade. He feels his personality fits with the skills needed for a career in the law, and looks forward to meeting lawyers through the internship.



Kaylee Olvera
Allen Village High School (Junior)

Kaylee hopes to have a career in law that will allow her to protect and defend those who need it. Her goal is to become a lawyer that will help others move forward toward better opportunities. She is currently involved in Chess Club where she has earned first place several times and has been responsible for teaching new team members.



Yvonn Razo-Alatorre
Wyandotte High School (Junior)

Yvonn hopes to eventually become a public defender, as she has seen firsthand in her community how the public defender's office is overloaded and often cannot provide representation needed. She is involved in Saturday Academy, E-Ship Rising, Debate, Enough is Enough student board, and Youth Court. She has also completed peer mediation training. In the future, she would like to live in the KC area to help improve her community for the better.



Aurora Ritter
Truman High School (Junior)

Aurora dreams of bringing justice to those who deserve it. She would like to serve as a prosecutor and then as a criminal defense attorney, and use her career to support criminal justice reform. She has participated in her school's Debate Club and Mock Trial. Part of her goals are to return to Kansas City after obtaining her degrees, where she can serve as a Mock Trial Coach to other young students.



Sydrionna Rolls
Wyandotte High School (Senior)

Sydrionna grew up watching Law & Order with her grandmother, and dreams of becoming a criminal defense attorney. She has taken law classes through high school and was a part of the Youth Violence Prevention Program and Peer Mediation Group formed in her law classes.



Hazel Sanders
Center High School (Junior)

Hazel strongly believes law is the right career path, and hopes to leverage Student Law Academy to better understand opportunities in the law field. Hazel currently participates in Debate, Volleyball, Youth Ambassadors, Herndon Law Enforcement/Police Science, and UMKC Saturday Academy.



Manniya Taylor
Sumner Academy of Arts & Science (Junior)

Manniya is interested in helping people solve problems through the law. She plays tennis at her school and has played the baritone in Band and Marching Band for 6 years. She has participated in debate and was proud when she earned admission into Sumner Academy. She looks forward to gaining new insight into careers with the law through the internship.