There are three Ethel Benjamin scholarship winners for 2011. The three recipients of this New Zealand Law Foundation award are Charlotte Leslie, Anna Crowe and Natalie Coates and all three intend to study for an LLM at Harvard University.

A Wellingtonian, Anna Crowe graduated from Auckland University in 2009 with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in history. From February 2009 until this year, she has been employed as a clerk to the Chief Justice. Since January 2011 she has been an assistant Crown Counsel with the constitutional group at the Crown Law Office.

In 2008, Anna and the Auckland University team reached the quarter finals of the Philip C Jessup moot, one of the best ever results for a New Zealand university. In 2007, she was senior editor for the Auckland University Law Review and is current secretary of the Wellington Women Lawyers Association.

Anna will use the scholarship towards her LLM, which aims to develop her capacity to contribute to public discourse in a range of areas, specifically in relation to women’s rights and New Zealand’s constitutional future. Anna proposes to undertake a research paper on global administrative law, focusing on producing a feminist critique on aspects of this new field.

The Law Foundation established the Ethel Benjamin scholarship to commemorate New Zealand’s first woman lawyer. It is awarded each year to outstanding women scholars to support post-graduate research in law that encompasses the foundation’s wider objectives, in particular research that will protect and promote the interests of the public in relation to legal matters in New Zealand. Most years, two scholarships are awarded.