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.

Charlotte Leslie graduated from Auckland University in 2007 with an LLB (Hons) and a Bachelor of Health Sciences. After spending two years as a judge’s clerk at the High Court, Auckland, she joined the medico-legal and public liability team at Meredith Connell in January 2009.

During her time with the firm, Charlotte conducted health-related prosecutions on behalf of government agencies as well as civil litigation. She also became involved in some complex and high profile criminal prosecutions, including a police shooting of a bystander. In late 2010, Charlotte left the firm for the United States. Her LLM will focus on the relationship between public health (the study and practice of improving population health outcomes) and public law (the study of government and its relationship with citizens).

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.