Rachel Carnachan of Auckland and Liesle Theron of Rotorua have been selected as this year’s recipients of the New Zealand Law Foundation’s Ethel Benjamin Prize for women.

Rachel Carnachan
Auckland

Rachel Carnachan, who receives $10,000 from the Foundation, graduated from Auckland University with a BA/LLB (Hons) and has worked as a junior lawyer for Bell Gully in Auckland since 2000. She has been accepted into the LLM programme at Harvard University, where her study goal is to consider the role that commercial law mechanisms can play in containing the risks of New Zealand’s integration with open capital markets.

The selection panel who chose this year’s recipients comprised NZ Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship Committee Convenor Professor David Parry, Professor Tony Angelo from Victoria University, and Law Foundation representatives Rae Mazengarb and Christopher Hart.

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.