Jessica Palmer
Auckland

Auckland law graduate **Jessica Palmer** has been awarded this year’s Ethel Benjamin Prize for Women. The New Zealand Law Foundation prize commemorates New Zealand’s first female lawyer and is made to outstanding women law graduates from a New Zealand university to help fund post-graduate law studies.

Jessica will use the $30,000 award for study at Cambridge University in England, beginning this September. She plans to study various aspects of private law and has a particular interest in the law of restitution. On her return to New Zealand, she would like to pursue an academic career, teaching and researching in the fields of private and commercial law.

Jessica graduated LLB (Hons)/BCom from Auckland University in 2002. During her undergraduate studies she won the annual prize for Commercial Law in 2001, a senior prize awarded to the best final year students and the J P Campbell bursary.

She completed the Institute of Professional Legal Studies course in 2002 and this year has been studying part time at Auckland University towards an LLM, having been awarded a University of Auckland Masters Scholarship. She also works as a judges’ clerk at the Auckland High Court and has tutored in equity at Auckland University since 2002.

This year’s selection panel for the Ethel Benjamin Prize comprised NZ Vice-Chancellors Scholarship Committee Convener Professor David Parry, Professor Tony Angelo from Victoria University and NZ Law Foundation representatives Rae Mazengarb and Kathy Stringfellow (for Christine French).

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.