NEW ZEALAND LAW FOUNDATION
2019 ETHEL BENJAMIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Rosalind Kós
University of Canterbury

There are three winners of the 2019 New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Scholarship, an award that supports postgraduate research in law that will protect and promote the legal interests of the New Zealand public.

This year’s recipients are Nichola Hodge, Harriet Farquhar and Rosalind Kós.

Rosalind Kós gained a First Class Honors degree in Law in 2015 at the University of Canterbury School of Law, graduating as the Gold Medal Scholar, top of her year.

Rosalind is currently a Senior Solicitor at Crown Solicitors Luke Cunningham Clere, in Wellington. Prior to this, she was a Judges Clerk in the Court of Appeal, clerking for Justice French.

In addition to this scholarship, Rosalind has been awarded a University of Chicago scholarship to help fund her LLM there. As part of her studies, she will explore a comparative and pragmatic approach to the prosecution of family violence cases. Rosalind aims to identify possible reforms to New Zealand’s criminal procedure in family violence cases and publish her findings.

She says, “Anecdotally, in my experience as a prosecutor many complainants of family violence offending do not turn up to the trial or do so reluctantly. Research is needed to identify possible ways to improve the criminal law’s responsiveness to the complex issues raised by family violence prosecution.”

“The aim of my research will be to identify possible reforms to New Zealand’s criminal procedure in family violence cases in order to protect and enhance the rights of complainants, family and whānau members, and defendants.”

Information about Nichola Hodge and Harriet Farquhar, the other 2019 winners of this scholarship, is available on the Law Foundation’s web site.

The Ethel Benjamin scholarship honours New Zealand’s first woman barrister and solicitor, who was admitted to the Bar in 1897. Since the centenary of this event, the Law Foundation has awarded this scholarship annually to outstanding New Zealand women law graduates for post-graduate study.

The award is worth up to $50,000. Details of the award and previous winners can be found on the Ethel Benjamin Scholarship page of the Foundation’s website.