



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

**TE AO MĀRAMA
LE AO MALAMA
FIRST LIGHT**

Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leaver Scholarship



From left, 2021 graduates in Laws and Arts Aroha Leighton (Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) and Makuini Paulger (Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Maniapoto).

**CAPITAL THINKING.
GLOBALLY MINDED.**
MAI I TE IHO KI TE PAE



"I opted to establish this scholarship as a tangibly positive way to contribute, while honouring the request that the University's senior leaders voluntarily assist with the financial situation of the University."

- Mark Hickford, Scholarship founder, Former Pro Vice-Chancellor, Law and Government, Barrister, Thorndon Chambers



"Being first at something is not always important, much less life changing, but a school-leaver being the first in their whānau or aiga to attend university is both of those things."

- Hon Judge Ida Malosi, DAA



"This scholarship properly recognises that school-leavers come from different starting points. The importance of offering equitable opportunities for first-in-family school-leavers to attend law school cannot be underestimated."

- Hon Judge Hēmi Taumaunu, DAA

Te Ao Mārama | Le Ao Malama First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law school leaver scholarship

While the numbers of Māori and Pasifika students at law school have increased, law schools are still stubbornly elitist as demonstrated by the proportion of students of any ethnicity from decile one to four schools.

This scholarship aims to give students who are the first in their families to attend university what we have been fortunate to provide for our own children. Through our legal fellowship we also wish to provide formal and informal networks that make the law school experience achievable, and the prospect of a career in law a realistic and attainable goal for these first-in-family students.

To ensure this scholarship is sustainable and can continue to serve these students, we need your generous support so we can reach our target of raising \$500,000 for an endowed fund.

Beyond financial support, we are reaching out to our friends and professional contacts to provide fellowship in the form of part-time legal work experience in the second, third, or fourth year of the law programme. We are also asking our esteemed colleagues to offer meet-and-greet opportunities with judges, government officials, politicians and so forth.

We would welcome any support you can offer towards our goal of a more diverse and inclusive legal community.

Where did Te Ao Mārama | Le Ao Malama First Light Scholarships come from?

In 2020, during the Alert Level Four period as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread, senior leadership team members at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington were invited to voluntarily reduce their take-home income by 20 percent through salary giving.

Then Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Law, Professor Mark Hickford opted to establish a scholarship in the Victoria Foundation, which was initially named the Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leavers' Scholarship.

Mark saw this as a tangibly positive way to contribute while honouring the request that the University's senior leaders voluntarily assist with the financial situation of the University and exhibit leadership beyond rhetorical utterances. Twenty percent of his income was diverted into that fund for the duration of the year and into the first quarter of 2021.

A friend and supporter of the objectives of the scholarship also contributed \$10,000 anonymously and we are incredibly grateful for that support.

Following discussion with the Hon Sir Joseph (Joe) Williams of the Supreme Court and Mark Hickford's University colleague the Hon Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, the scholarship has been named Te Ao Mārama | Le Ao Malama First Light so that the name comprises Te Reo and Samoan (for Pasifika) references. We are grateful to them both for their support.

Addressing the real costs of study

The stress of finding money for accommodation, food, books, materials, and transport can be devastating to students' abilities to keep up with their studies. A first-year student who is not required to pay tuition fees may be facing accommodation costs of \$15,000 to \$25,000 in the current Wellington market with heavy demand keeping costs high. Those in years two and three will be paying as much as \$22,000-\$32,000, including accommodation.

Give a student the opportunity to study law

Our goal is for these scholarships to grow the participation and success of Māori and Pasifika students. We know there are many more under-represented students in our region and, by working in partnership with the University, students, their whānau and generous supporters, we can unlock so much more potential.

We would be delighted to work with you to help us reach our goal of a more diverse and inclusive legal community. Find out more about how you can support the [Te Ao Mārama | Le Ao Malama | First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law School-Leaver Scholarship](#)

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"We are proud to work with amazing and ambitious young people and we hope, with your support, to make a small but significant difference to the lives of these deserving young people to succeed at university and make a difference to the future of their whānau."

- Hon Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, DNZM



"In law schools, some progress has been made on gender and ethnic diversity in the last 30 years, but not nearly enough. And almost no progress is apparent with respect to socio-economic diversity. I believe that fellowship from the law community will help future students prosper in the most positive way."

- The Hon Justice Sir Joseph (Joe) Williams, DAA



"This scholarship offers comprehensive support for Māori and Pasifika school-leaver students to successfully undertake a law degree. We look forward to working with students and supporters at all levels to build those futures in law."

- Professor Lee Godden, Dean of Law



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