

**LATINA/O BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**
(LBAWSF)

2007 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES

Maria Diana Garcia, 3L, Gonzaga University School of Law. Ms. Garcia was raised in Pasco, WA, the daughter of migrant farm workers from Mexico. After her father's untimely death when she was eight, Ms. Garcia, along with her sister and mother, struggled to survive, all working to support the household. Ms. Garcia went on to become the first person in her family to graduate from high school, and later college. As an undergraduate at UW, she was a founder of a new academic sorority for Latina students, and promoted Latino unity through other charitable and community programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, the Seattle Union Gospel Mission, and La Union del Pueblo Entero, a migrant farm workers union established by César Chávez. At Gonzaga University School of Law, she has assumed a leadership role with the Gonzaga Hispanic Law Caucus, participating in mock trials for encouraging at-risk minority high school students to pursue legal careers. She is the recipient of a Laurel Rubin Farm Worker Justice Fellowship, enabling her to work last summer for Columbia Legal Services in Kennewick, WA. As part of her duties there, she informed farm workers of their rights by going out into the fields and making presentations at migrant daycare centers. Back in school now, she is currently on the Gonzaga Law Review and serves as the Gonzaga liaison for LBAW.

Michael Khalili, 2L, Seattle University School of Law. Mr. Khalili grew up in a rural border town in southwest Texas, the son of a second-generation, Mexican-American, single mother. After witnessing much unfairness to factory workers, he set upon a course to do something about it. Mr. Khalili became the first in his family to go to college, majoring in Psychology at UCLA. Mr. Khalili was then accepted at Seattle University School of Law. After his first year at SU, he received the Laurel Rubin Farm Worker Justice Fellowship in Yakima, WA, and began working for Columbia Legal Services in the summer of 2006. With Columbia Legal Services, he interviewed farmworker clients and spent hours meeting in farmworker housing, answering questions and informing farm workers of legal rights. Back in school for his 2L year, Michael has proven a truly exceptional student, earning an A+ in Housing Law and prompting an extraordinary recommendation from Prof. Henry McGee, who rated Michael as possibly *the best* student he has ever had at SU.

Angelita Chavez, 1L, University of Washington School of Law. Ms. Chavez was born in Michoacán, and arrived in the U.S. at the age of six. She experienced first-hand many of the challenges for immigrants in this country, dealing with poverty and marginalization. While her parents never had formal schooling, they stressed the importance of a college education, and Ms. Chavez responded by enrolling as an undergraduate and later law student at the University of Washington. As an undergraduate, Ms. Chavez began doing volunteer work for Casa Latina. She also served in leadership roles with the UW chapter of MEChA, helping to coordinate an annual conference that brings together more than 100 Latino high school students from across the state to learn about access to higher education. Now as a law student, Angelita has hardly slowed down, currently serving on the Seattle Fiestas Patrias Committee, helping to coordinate this annual event in celebration of the independence of all Latin American countries, and serving on the Advisory Board for the Latino Educational Achievement Project, which lobbied for the passage of the in-state tuition bill for undocumented students in Washington State.