Banner Witcoff Awards Donald W. Banner Diversity Fellowship to Two Law Students

Banner Witcoff has awarded two law students the Donald W. Banner Diversity Fellowship. Created to strengthen diversity and inclusion in intellectual property law, the Fellowship provides recipients with $5,000 for law school tuition or other school-related expenses.

The Donald W. Banner Diversity Fellowship is open to law students who identify as members of a historically underrepresented group in intellectual property law and meet certain criteria, including academic merit, a commitment to pursuing a career in the field and demonstrated leadership qualities. The firm has awarded $200,000 to law students since the program was established.

The 2024 Donald W. Banner Diversity Fellowship recipients:

- Dasha Ignatova is a first-year law student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical and Medical Engineering from the University of Minnesota.
- Jingcheng Shi is a first-year law student at Cornell Law School. He graduated from Huazhong University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Automation, and a Minor in Law.

As part of the Fellowship, first- and second-year law students participate in Banner Witcoff's summer associate program.

Donald W. Banner (1924-2006) — the namesake of the fellowship and firm — was a leader in the field of patent law. A former U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, he was chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law, president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, a founding member of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel, president of the International Patent and Trademark Association, co-founder and president of the Intellectual Property Owners Association and director of The John Marshall Law School Center for Intellectual Property Law.

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