

Suzula Bidon
William Mitchell College of Law
Law Student Award Winner

Suzula Bidon is grateful to have the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the women and men she serves. She is committed to providing compassionate legal representation and meaningful access to justice for those whose predicate "offense" is having the disease of addiction, mental illness, or both.

Through MJF, Ms. Bidon volunteers as pro bono defense counsel with the team from Briggs and Morgan in Ramsey County Mental Health Court. As President of the Health Law Society at William Mitchell, she collaborates with local and national organizations dedicated to implementing policy changes that move addiction and mental illness out of the criminal arena and into the realm of public health.

Her greatest source of personal and professional growth in law school has been her work, as a Certified Student Attorney, with the Reentry Program at William Mitchell. Over the past ten months, under the supervision of clinic director (and invaluable mentor) Joanna Woolman, Ms. Bidon has had the privilege of helping women successfully achieve and maintain sobriety, reunite with their children, reclaim their dignity, and reintegrate back into their communities after incarceration. She is profoundly grateful to Joanna and to Brad Colbert of the LAMP (Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners) Clinic for taking her under their collective wing, treating her like a colleague, and showing her what it means to be a great lawyer and advocate.

Ms. Bidon has a B.A. in Theatre from Barnard College and expects to graduate from William Mitchell in May. Last spring, she volunteered as an intern with Debra Hilstrom, Chair of the Judiciary Committee in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Currently, she is an extern for the Honorable Jay Quam in Hennepin County District Court. And last but not least, she is a certified yoga teacher who specializes in teaching yoga to individuals in recovery.