FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Jessie Kornberg (917) 446-8991 kornberg@ms-jd.org
October 14, 2010

Ms. JD LAUNCHES GLOBAL EDUCATION FUND

Funds support legal education of two Ugandan women in inaugural year.

Ms. JD, a student-founded nonprofit that supports women in law school and the legal profession, has launched an education fund to help women become lawyers in developing countries. The Global Education Fund benefits women who otherwise could not afford higher education. This year, the Global Education Fund is enabling Joaninne Nanyange and Monica Athieno, two young Ugandan women, to study law at Makerere University in Kampala.

Currently 45% of adult women in Uganda have never been to school, and only 3% of adult women have had access to higher education. Joaninne and Monica were identified by the Gender Mainstreaming Division at Makerere University for their outstanding academic credentials despite great personal hardships.

Joaninne wants to help women and children as a human rights lawyer. Joaninne struggled to pay her way through elementary and secondary school after her mother died and her father abandoned Joaninne and her four younger siblings. Joaninne writes, “I am so thankful to the Gender Mainstreaming Division of Makerere and Ms. JD for such an opportunity because I was about to lose hope. I cannot thank you enough and I promise not to let you down.”

Monica wants to be a judge who helps rule of law prevail in war-torn Uganda. After Monica’s father died, her mother supported her secondary school education selling vegetables at the local market. Monica explains: “In Uganda today, girls and women (widows) are faced with challenges from the relatives of a deceased father/husband, they threaten to take the few assets left. If windows had knowledge about where to seek refuge, they would not be abused this way... By studying Law at University I intend to acquire knowledge and skills to enable me advocate for equality and equity for all and uphold the fundamental human rights and so be able to stand up as a voice for the voiceless.”

You can read more about Joaninne and Monica at ms-jd.org/gef.

Ms. JD and its affiliated campus chapters plan to raise funds to support Ms. JD’s Global Education Fund at events across the country and throughout the year. This project marks the first national effort of law students to increase the access to legal education of women in third world countries.

About Ms. JD

Ms. JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community dedicated to advancing women in the legal profession. Founded by law students from 12 schools in 2006, Ms. JD hosts an online forum for women in all areas of law. Contributors are dedicated to reinforcing and expanding the representation of women in law school and the legal profession. In addition to maintaining content at ms-jd.org, Ms. JD funds two annual scholarship programs, administers an online library of resources and research on women in the profession, hosts an annual conference for women in the law, conducts original research on the representation of women in law firm partnerships and in leadership positions on law school campuses, and supports over 70 law school student organizations that form Ms. JD’s National Women Law Students’ Organization.

More information about Ms. JD’s mission and work can be found on Ms. JD’s website.