

Mary Banks, born and raised in Seattle, Washington, has demonstrated a profound commitment to education and community service since an early age. At just 21 years old, Mary has already carved a path of excellence, culminating in a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from Dillard University, graduating in 2025 after just three years of dedicated study. This achievement reflects Mary's tenacity and passion for understanding the complexities of the legal system and human behavior. During Mary's time at Dillard University, the vibrant and historically Black university located in New Orleans, Louisiana, she not only excelled academically but also embraced the rich cultural heritage and community spirit that the city offers. Immersing herself in campus life, Mary became an active member of various student organizations, fostering leadership skills and building connections that would later prove invaluable. One of the highlights of her college experience was being initiated as a member of the Beta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in Fall 2023. Through this organization, Mary Banks has engaged in numerous community service initiatives, emphasizing the importance of service—values that resonate deeply within her. Currently a first-year law student at Loyola College of Law in New Orleans, Mary is taking significant steps toward a career in law. The experience at Loyola builds upon the strong foundation laid at Dillard University, allowing her to explore various facets of the legal field while remaining committed to her community. As she navigates through law school, Mary Banks continues to be driven by a desire to advocate for justice and equality, aiming to make a tangible impact on the lives of those around her. In recognition of her dedication to community service, Mary Banks was honored with the Class Act Award from The Links, Incorporated—a testament to her continuous effort to uplift and support her community. This award is bestowed upon individuals who exemplify a strong commitment to service and positive influence within their communities, something Mary Banks embodies through her proactive engagement and efforts. Moreover, Mary Banks serves as the facilitator for the GROWW (Girls Reaching Out Works Wonders) program at the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. In this role, she works closely with youth and their families, addressing various social issues and providing valuable resources to help guide them toward a brighter future. This position aligns perfectly with her background in psychology and criminal justice, allowing her to apply her knowledge in real-world situations, fostering resilience and personal growth among young individuals. Mary's journey is a testament to the power of education, community involvement, and determination. With a clear vision for the future and a heart dedicated to service, she is poised to become a leader not only in the field of law but also within the community, championing the causes that matter most. As she continues to make strides in her academic and professional career, Mary Banks remains committed to uplifting others and effecting meaningful change in society.