The Rising Star Award is the Minority Bar Committee’s opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements and accomplishments of one of its members on the rise. This year, the Rising Star Award Committee received several high-quality applications. The future of the Minority Bar Committee and the Pennsylvania Bar Association is bright.

The recipient of the Rising Star Award for 2021 is Jada S. Greenhowe, Esq. Jada received her Bachelors of Arts in communication rhetoric from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2013, she earned her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. While there, she was senior development editor of the Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law. She earned certificates in environmental law as well as international and comparative law. In 2014, Jada became assistant counsel for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Her practice includes municipal bond financing and tax-exempt transactions, low-income housing tax credit transactions, mixed-use development transactions, bankruptcy litigation and other civil litigation, including quiet title actions and contract disputes.

Jada may not think of herself as a Rising Star within the Minority Bar Committee and the PBA, describing herself as someone who steps up and fills the voids, but she could not be more wrong. Jada has demonstrated not only a willingness to step up to the plate when asked, but a willingness to take a chance. This is what leadership looks like. Jada first became involved with the Civil and Equal Rights Committee at the urging of Susan Etter. For Jada, this committee has been an invaluable opportunity by allowing her to engage in the area of civil rights law. As a public interest lawyer, she adds an important and rich perspective to the committee. Riley Ross, another leader within our bar association, encouraged Jada to serve as co-chair of the Civil and Equal Rights Continuing Legal Education Subcommittee. She seized the opportunity to lead. Her perspective as a public interest lawyer has added great value to the work of the subcommittee. Jada also serves as co-vice chair of the Civil and Equal Rights Committee and Zone Three co-chair of the Young Lawyers Division. In 2019, Jada applied to the Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) on a “whim.” It is hardly a whim to actively seek out opportunities to develop connections with other professionals in the commonwealth while learning about the PBA’s many paths to leadership. Despite the program’s limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jada still attended a Board of Governors meeting.

Whether she recognizes it or not, she is preparing herself and honing her leadership skills. At a very early juncture of her career, Jada has already established herself as a steady and trustworthy participant in several core PBA activities. However, the best is yet to come for Jada. She looks forward to making an impact and will not be satisfied with a typical nine-to-five legal career. She envisions a future working in environmental justice that will allow her to combine her passion for clean energy and environmental law with what she has learned about multi-unit affordable housing. We have no doubt that she will continue to make an impact within the PBA and Minority Bar Committee as well.