

2016 MLK Jr. Summer Interns

The Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Internship Program was established in 1991 to promote and support minority attorneys to work in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) programs across the Commonwealth.

Initiated by the Pennsylvania Legal Services Black Caucus, the goal of the MLK internship program is to promote cultural and ethnic diversity in legal services and to honor Dr. King. Since its inception, 341 law students have participated in the program.

Summer internships are available throughout the PLAN during the summer months for first and second year law students who are social justice oriented and desire an opportunity to make a difference.

The MLK Internship is an integral part of the PLAN goal to initiate new lawyers to the life-long commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Students engage in unique situations through which they can better understand the special legal issues facing those who live in poverty and low income communities. In turn, they provide



valuable services to clients of PLAN offices in which they are placed.

Law students experience the real world of legal advocacy. MLK Interns experience direct client contact, participate in court and administrative hearings (for those certified), and conduct legal research and writing on actual cases under the supervision of seasoned legal aid attorneys. Each MLK intern is treated as a valuable member of the legal staff and is expected to participate in case strategy and contribute to overall case management. A one day poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship.

10 paid internships are awarded each summer to law students to participate in legal services work over the traditional 10 week summer internship period.

"The work done through PULP is vital and directly affects the physical well-being of others. I am thankful to have gained real-world experience and a broader understanding of public interest work while interning with the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project."

*Taylor Haga, George Washington University School of
2016 Intern — Pennsylvania Utility Law Project*

"My experience throughout the summer really solidified my passion in helping those who really do not have the means of being able to help themselves. I truly believe that attorneys who work in the public sector, especially those in legal services, really provide a great advantage to indigent clients and give them hope at bettering their lives."

*Zoe Reyes, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
2016 Intern — Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services*

"My time with LASP has given me more hope than I have felt in years. There are men and women who are committed, day in and day out, to giving their best effort to helping the indigent in our legal system. They are inspiring a new generation of legal professionals through their conduct."

*Burak Serbetci, Rutgers-Camden School of Law
2016 Intern — Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania*



The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. is the principal funding and oversight agency for organizations that comprise the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) is the community of legal services organizations that provide legal assistance to low income residents of Pennsylvania.

PLAN Inc. Board President - James DeAngelo, Esq.
2016 MLK Summer Intern - Rondell Jordan, Pitt Law
PLAN Inc. Executive Director - Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Program

In 2003, an evaluation of the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program revealed that while the internship experience had been a very positive one for PLAN, students, clients and programs, the goal to enhance cultural and ethnic diversity within the programs was not being realized.

In response, PLAN created the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Program** in 2004. In partnership with a sponsoring regional or specialty program, law school graduates and attorneys who are new to practice are hired as full time staff attorneys for a two-year fellowship.

Fellows are assigned mentors and supervised by experienced attorneys. Salary and benefits are determined by the host program.

In addition, loan repayment assistance, up to \$11,000 is available during the first two years of employment.

The fellowship is intended to support and promote new lawyers who are interested in long term public interest careers.

Employment is not limited to two years.

To Apply

- ◆ **Summer Internship:** Send a cover letter, resume, transcript and three references by December 31, 2016.
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Send a cover letter, resume, transcript, three references and a writing sample by December 31, 2016

to

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
Administrative Officer
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

For additional information about the summer internship or fellowship program contact
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Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship

&

Fellowship Program

2017

*A Program Established to Honor
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
In Pursuit of Equal Justice For All*

***“Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere.”***

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Letter from Birmingham Jail
April 16, 1963*

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is provided by Pennsylvania IOLTA and the
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare**

**An Opportunity to
Make a Difference**