



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Summer Internship and Fellowship Program

Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network, Inc.

THE DRUM MAJOR

Class of 2018 Essay Collection



"Make a career of humanity, commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in."

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.
Louise Brookins Building
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

July 24, 2018

To the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Interns:

We are pleased to present you with the 2018 edition of **THE DRUM MAJOR**, which is a small token of appreciation for your efforts this summer.

Through your work during the past ten weeks, you have touched the lives of many clients who have nowhere else to turn. You learned how to use your skills to make equal justice a reality.

For this, we thank you. Wherever your paths may lead you, we hope that your experience here will be an inspiration and a reminder of how you can make a difference.

Very Truly Yours,



Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.
Executive Director



Very Truly Yours,



Arlene A. Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
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An Ode to Servants

In 1968, a half century ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached “Drum Major Instinct.” Still, I believe the core message of his sermon continues to ring true. Dr. King recognized a basic human instinct to want to be first, and while not inherently bad, he warned that this instinct could become destructive and cause the need to feel superior. In the end, Dr. King did not desire for people to remember him for his Nobel Peace Prize or other awards. But instead that he tried to live his life as a servant. He believed the greatest achievement anyone could hope for was to be first in love.

Particularly within the legal profession, there is ample potential to go down either path—the destructive one or the other that leads a person to serve others. I found the latter emanated in the work of many advocates I encountered during my time as a Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) law student summer intern for the non-profit agency, Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP), which is a part of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN).

Dr. King’s sermon brings to mind some experiences I would like to highlight from my summer. Namely, it reminds me of the time when I met PULP’s client-advocates, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA). Its members are committed to helping low income families maintain affordable access to utility services, achieve economic independence, and family well-being. On the evening we met, CAUSE-PA members attended the PLAN 2018 Excellence Awards Banquet. Notably, on the list of honorees was Patrick Cicero, Esq., Executive Director of PULP and my attorney-supervisor.

Upon gracefully accepting his award, Patrick did not take the opportunity to speak of himself. Instead, he focused on those he spends his life serving and thanked others. Even though he is a nationally recognized attorney and expert on low income energy policy, he distinguishes

himself by continuing to keep his work client-centered. For that, he is a widely respected leader by his colleagues and community. His actions echo the words of Dr. King:

Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness.

The new world, which abides by the definition of greatness that Dr. King envisioned just two months before his assassination, does not yet prevail. Education, status, background, race, and prejudice remain powerful forces that distort how greatness and importance are perceived. To create change, non-profit agencies like PULP have worked tirelessly for decades to obtain and maintain their seat at the table with those who directly shape and influence critical policies and programs affecting low-income clients.

I have benefitted from the efforts of those who marched the long road before me. I had the opportunity attend hearings and participate in conference calls and meetings on behalf of PULP's clients, CAUSE-PA. Working for PULP helped grow my appreciation for the process of preparing testimony, comments, and other casework. Often times, high-level actors are unreceptive to our proposals. However, PULP never loses heart. Their resiliency and commitment to serve others are instincts that I plan to adopt into my own future career as a public interest attorney. At the end of the day, there is still much work to be done.

Glory Brown
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Regional Housing Legal Services



**Helping Others Through Community and
Economic Development via Legal Services**

Sunday February 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the infamous sermon titled “The Drum Major Instinct” at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. In this sermon, he highlighted a psychoanalytical theory from Sigmund Freud, which asserts that people have a basic impulse that drives a desire for recognition and to be the first. Freud called this theory the “drum major instinct,” Dr. King went further and said that the drum major instinct is exhibited by all of us because we all crave attention and find pleasure in being praised for our efforts and works. He also pointed out that drum major instincts are present in all phases of life beginning with infants when they make their first cries for attention then, children when they beg or behave in a way that will result in receiving attention and lastly, as adults we desire recognition for our work and strive to be noticed. King goes on to draw a connection between the drum major instinct (or impulse) and the compelling need to join groups to satisfy the compelling need for attention, recognition and, importance.

At the core of this sermon, Dr. King made an appeal for us to harness the drum major instinct and use it for peace, justice and the service of others as opposed to self-righteous recognition and attention. This appeal is at the core of my desire to become a public service attorney, thus my desire to intern with the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN). The mission of legal aid services is to provide legal assistance to marginalized and underprivileged members of our society with the goal of furthering equal justice and representation. Public service attorneys work tirelessly in the service of others, justice and peace. The work done by a public service attorney is not rooted in impulsive desires for attention but rather a personal drive to be a positive contributor to change for those who need them.

My Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) summer internship was with Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS). RHLS works to assist in the development of affordable, sustainable housing through community and economic development. In doing so, they consider low-income communities, individuals with an array of disabilities, and older adults who desire to live independently while maintaining their dignity. The work of RHLS is largely done “behind the

scenes” where there is no cheering or showering of admiration. The attorneys I’ve worked with enjoy the personal fulfillment that derives from being part of a collective effort towards positive change. Consequent to the collective efforts is the completion of projects that will enable marginalized members of our society to lead better lives by residing in reasonable housing often designed and constructed to address their specific needs.

The highlight of my internship rested in the opportunity to conduct research, review, and draft documents, and constructing legal arguments. Initially, I was frightened by the prospect of making errors nonetheless, I was eager and surrounded by a tremendous amount of encouragement and support. With each completed assignment came a sense of gratitude for the experience and exposure to transactional work. It is exciting to delve into new areas of law and to witness its intricacies. Working with RHLS was a consistent example of collective efforts working towards a common goal – community development.

My motivation for becoming an attorney has always been driven by my desire to help others who may be intimidated by the legal process or can’t afford legal services. My summer internship was fulfilling, in that, I was given the opportunity to materialize my desire to help others through legal work. My experience was wonderful, educational and beneficial. I am reaffirmed in my purpose of using my legal education to further equal justice and provide public service to those in need.

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Community Justice Project



“I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.”

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Leaving A Committed Life Behind

My experience in at the Community Justice Project (CJP) cannot be explained in words. I grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania. As an immigrant, I saw firsthand the struggles that an immigrants face on the daily basis. It brings me great joy to know that I have been able to work with this office in my community and provide much needed support to immigrants and citizens alike.

I was not sure what to expect when I first started. On my first day, I started working with clients. I did intakes immediately and worked with walk-in clients which made me very excited to be a part of the office. I know that law school cannot teach or prepare us for some of the things that we will encounter as future lawyers and that is why pioneers like Dr. King help fill in that gap. The Reading office has a huge volume of walk-in clients who have a wide range of questions and problems. Knowing how some of our clients might feel, I prided myself in going above and beyond for those that walked in the door.

I did not think I would have to do some of the things that I had to do but I learned that it takes the extra effort to support those in need. I had the privilege to take a domestic violence victim to Protection From Abuse (PFA) court and help her take the court copies to the police station. I helped clients get their photographs for an immigration application. I even went to the social security office to help clients get documents for their applications. I called countless government offices, legal aid offices, supervisors, and used google to try to find some answers for people. I could have said no plenty of times but I knew that the risk of never getting the information clients actually needed was great.

Some might think that these activities are not be what a traditional lawyer does but it is a reminder of the huge gap between those with access to resources and those with barriers. To us, getting a PFA may be easy, but, to others it is a barrier especially if they have a child, don't know the language, or do not have transportation.

It reminds me that justice can be delivered in so many ways. Many times, we had to refer people out. I can't help but think about how many other barriers those people will face. It really is expensive to be poor because you have to spend so much time and energy to find the answers while the wealthy can pay for quick help. This experience has allowed me to help so many people in such a short amount of time. So many people helped me during my journey and the only thing I can do is give back what has been given to me.

This was my first experience working with domestic violence victims and it has opened my eyes to this much needed area of the law. I learned that everyone processes trauma in different ways and supporting our clients is key. It is not enough to just submit an application. We have to care for our clients on many different levels: emotionally, mentally, and much more. It has taken a toll on me emotionally, but I have learned the value of this work. I am committed to continuing this great work.

I do this work because, when I help those in need, I feel like I am fulfilling my purpose in life. I want to continue to leave a lasting impression on the communities that need the most help. One of the areas I hope to continue to work in is access to education. So many of our clients, including undocumented, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and immigrants alike still face so many barriers in accessing education. I saw it first hand when students would call and ask for resources regarding paying for and attending college. I wish I had better answers and that why I want to commit to supporting the youth in multifaceted ways.

As I continue in my journey, I hope to take what I have learned in this office and apply it on a macro level. Simple things can be done to create access and make it easier for those to move up socially in the land of the free and home of the brave. I plan to live a committed life: one committed to justice, one committed to peace, and one committed to righteousness. Dr. King has left us a great example of what a committed life looks like and I hope to follow that example in my legal career.

Queenette Echefu
Widener University Commonwealth Law School
J.D. Candidate 2018
MidPenn Legal Services



“But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant...Everybody can be great because everyone can serve...You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.”

—Dr. King, *“The Drum Major Instinct”*

The Life of a Servant

I was given the opportunity to work at MidPenn Legal Services (MPLS) this summer through the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Summer Internship Program. I came to law school with a passion for public service and by working with MPLS, I was able to foster that passion into practice.

As a product of Nigerian immigrant parents, education, faith, and service were key factors in my household. My passion for public service stems from my support system. My parents, friends, and extended family members have encouraged me and have been my backbone in both my troubling times and triumphs. This has allowed me to develop empathy for individuals despite their life circumstances. This empathy is what drives me to devote my time in the public sector and working at MPLS was the next step in my journey.

During my time at MPLS, I gained a better insight into legal aid. My first task was to call clients and perform intakes for custody cases. The intake process is designed to gather information about the client and acquire a more extensive understanding of why the client contacted MPLS. As time progressed, I became more comfortable conducting family law intakes. I knew what questions to ask and how to approach the client with such questions. Based on the clients' perspective, it is very pervasive to ask them about their criminal activity or whether Children and Youth Services (CYS) was involved in any way. However, I have learned that, by being thorough, the attorneys have enough information about the case to provide the client with helpful advice for the situation at hand.

Based upon the information learned during the intake process, the attorney would advise the client to file or not file for custody. In order to begin a custody proceeding, a complaint must be filed. I drafted several complaints and actually got the chance to file those complaints at the Prothonotary's Office. Because of the amount of clients MPLS serves, MPLS cannot represent

every person that contacts the office. Some clients are scheduled to participate in MPLS' Custody Clinic (Clinic). The Clinic is an amazing, free resource for clients that is simply overlooked. The clinic assists clients to complete paperwork regarding filing for custody, modifying a current custody Order, or filing a petition for contempt. The clinic also helps clients prepare for custody conciliation conferences.

After a custody complaint is filed, the court schedules a custody conciliation conference. I had the opportunity to attend several of these conferences. The conference is designed to have all parties to the custody dispute come together and create an agreement for the parties to follow. At the conference, the conference officer emphasizes that the parties must be respectful toward one another and be willing to compromise. These conferences reinforce the need for the parties to focus on the "best interest of the child." I have learned that when parties do not act civilly, it is very difficult for an agreement to be reached. If an agreement cannot be reached at the conference, then a pre-trial hearing is scheduled. I had an opportunity to attend those as well. The pre-trial hearing is moderated by a judge and it is more formal. The hearing provides the parties with the opportunity to testify, call witnesses, and present their positions. Participating in the custody conferences and pre-trial hearings taught me how a lawyer advocates for their clients in action. I was greatly impressed with the attorney's preparation for the custody matters. I witnessed what true advocacy really means.

Another aspect of advocacy was participating in Protection from Abuse (PFA) hearings. MPLS allowed me to attend PFA hearings for the first time. I learned briefly about PFAs while working at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) as an intern during the spring semester of 2018. PCADV gave me a better insight on domestic violence issues plaguing women, men, and children. Domestic violence was an uncharted territory for me, but that internship helped me to develop an understanding about the purpose of PCADV, which is providing survivor-centered advocacy, primary prevention of domestic violence, and other forms of violence and abuse. Through my experience at PCADV, I had a glimpse of PFAs but, by working with MPLS, I was able to receive a real-life experience interacting with those who are affected by PFAs. It is a life and death situation when a person fears for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones. MPLS has exposed me to PFA hearings and how it is a platform for people who are harassed, stalked, or otherwise abused in some way to have a voice through their daunting situation. MPLS has shown me the importance of advocacy and has encouraged me to consider working with PFA victims in the future.

Furthermore, I have always been interested in family law issues so it was only natural to work on those issues when I began the internship at MPLS. However, by working in the public sector, it exposed me to different areas of the law and as a well-rounded professional, it is important to be versatile. For example, I attended a landlord/tenant hearing and an unemployment hearing. Both types of hearings were unlike what I encountered when participating in custody matters. Although informal, these hearings affected the rights of others whether it is acquiring stable housing or being at risk of losing one's benefits. Learning more about different areas of the law has been rewarding and I am thankful that my supervising attorney encouraged me to do so.

While I expanded my knowledge in different areas of the law by witnessing several conferences and hearings, I also improved my writing skills. Not only was I able to draft custody complaints but I also drafted petitions for contempt, petitions to extend a PFA Order; a stipulation agreement, a brief for pre-trial hearing, an answer to a complaint; and other legal documents. These tasks have assisted me in improving my writing skills and helped me to adapt my writing style to serve a specific audience. Analytical thinking and writing are two important skills that I have learned throughout my law school journey and to have an opportunity to sharpen those tools was irreplaceable.

To conclude, the opportunities I mentioned at MPLS are just glimpses of what I have experienced. To some, it might seem like a small gesture; but to me, it is an opportunity to change a person's life. Throughout my experience working with MPLS, I gained a substantial amount of knowledge which will assist me as a member of this community and in my future career pursuits. Throughout my life, I have dedicated my time to public service. Dr. King's "Drum Major Instinct" sermon resonated with me because it teaches me about the importance of service, regardless of one's background or status in society. His speech exemplifies the need for people to seek success and greatness through service and love, rather than taking on the drum major instinct of selfishness. The attorneys at MPLS emulate what Dr. King once preached years ago- service and family. The attorneys and staff at MPLS have devoted their time to help individuals in the community. I am truly grateful to work with MPLS and become part of their family. As a member of this community, I am able to put to practice the knowledge I gained from MPLS and continued desire to serve others.

Supriya Philips
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Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project



A Drum Major for Justice

Over the past 10 weeks, I interned at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) located in Philadelphia. PILP defends the constitutional rights of those who are or have been incarcerated or institutionalized in Pennsylvania. Currently, PILP represents inmates who have been victims of use of excessive force and sexual assault, those denied access to necessary medical treatment, and those who have been held in four-point restraints for arbitrary reasons.

During my internship, I was able to assist PILP's attorneys while gaining invaluable legal experience. First, I drafted a motion in limine for a use of excessive force claim. Second, I updated legal bulletins for the Lewisburg Prison Project. The topics covered in the legal bulletins include federal civil actions, federal tort claims, medical rights, assaults and beatings, and DNA collection and testing. Third, I conducted research on cross-gender video surveillance of strip searches, the statutorily mandated two hours of outdoor exercise a day, and the confiscation of legal self-help materials mailed to an inmate from an inmate's attorney. Fourth, I responded to inmates afflicted with Hepatitis C and were denied necessary medical treatment. Finally, I assisted my supervising attorney in litigation concerning a transgendered inmate subjected to an invasive search for the sole purpose of determining gender identity.

Towards the end of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Drum Major Instinct Sermon, Dr. King told us that he thought about his own funeral. He did not want a long one. He did not want a speaker to talk that much. He directed those present at his funeral on what to say in his eulogy. He said he did not want anyone to mention that he received the Nobel Peace prize in 1964 or several hundreds of other awards throughout his lifetime. He did not want anyone to mention that he received his doctorate from Boston University. To him, none of those details mattered. They were unimportant and shallow. Instead, he wanted someone to say that he tried to devote his life to serving others. He wanted someone to mention that he tried to love somebody. He wanted someone to state that he tried to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. He wanted someone to say that he tried to love and serve humanity. To Dr. King, all of these details mattered. They were important and meaningful. He stated that if he be regarded as a drum major, he asks that he be

regarded as a drum major for justice, peace, and righteousness. Finally, he states that he wants to leave a committed life behind.

Dr. King's sermon encourages us to do the same. Although the work I did for PILP during my internship may seem insignificant or inconsequential to an outsider, it allowed me to serve a marginalized group of individuals and assist those incarcerated or institutionalized in achieving justice.

I was most impacted by the experience I gained from assisting my supervising attorney in litigation concerning a transgendered inmate. When the transgendered inmate arrived at a correctional institution, the inmate was singled out and subjected to an invasive search for the sole purpose of determining gender identity which violated the inmate's rights under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). For those of you who don't know, PREA represents the first federal law intended to deter the sexual assault of prisoners and applies to all detention facilities. Although PREA has been in effect for fifteen years, many detention facilities across Pennsylvania would not pass a PREA audit which determines a detention facility's compliance with the federal law's guidelines.

I am not transgendered and cannot completely understand what it is like to be a transgendered individual let alone a transgendered individual residing at a correctional facility. However, I can still serve them and assist them in achieving justice. PILP, by representing the inmate and filing the lawsuit, has already advanced the treatment of transgendered individuals in detention facilities. Correctional staff are encouraged to use preferred pronouns for transgendered inmates. Training regarding the detention facility's LGBTQI and transgendered policies has become more meaningful and engaging. Abusive language targeting transgendered individuals is not tolerated. Correctional staff involved with intake are aware that conducting a special search for the sole purpose of determining gender identity is inappropriate.

My experience at PILP will leave a lasting impression on my life. It was refreshing to come into the office every morning and be surrounded by individuals that are passionate about their work and are eager to have a law school student join them in being drum majors for justice. I thank Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc., and PILP and its attorneys for a wonderful internship experience. I am sad that I will no longer be an MLK Summer Intern, but I look forward to doing public interest work in the future.

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A New View of Service

History has given me a number of role models from whom I can learn and construct my own identity, using their teachings as my guide. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is, in my opinion, the best role model for what it means to give back to one's community. In his Drum Major sermon, Dr. King says, "A new definition of greatness means that everybody can be great because everybody can serve."¹ I could not agree more with this sentiment. I have always seen education as the best way a person can use their strengths and knowledge to give back to whatever community they choose to serve. I went to law school with the sole mission of helping and serving others, in particular, those who are disadvantaged in the system due to their income limitations. With this perspective in mind, I was so honored and excited to work in legal aid this summer because I wanted to learn if this path was really for me. I can honestly say my experience this summer has made me more certain than ever that this field is where I want to use my legal knowledge and is the best way I can use my skills to help others.

This summer, I worked at Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP) in their Chester County office. This is the county from which I am from which allowed me the opportunity to give back to my own community just as Dr. King suggests. Although my work mostly involved custody cases, I also gained experience in Social Security, expungements, and litigation through representing two clients in their Unemployment Compensation appeal hearings. I learned not only from my personal interactions with clients but also from observing and discussing cases with the attorneys in the office. I would not have learned nearly as much as I did without the support and patience of the attorneys who were willing to explain concepts and cases to me and answer all of my questions. I would be remiss if I did not mention their time and effort with me. I thank them for the experience and knowledge I gained from working with them.

In his sermon, Dr. King endorses the idea that no one is superior to another based on the color of their skin. This summer, I was confronted with inequality of all types: racial, gender, and, most frequently, socioeconomic. I worked in the West Chester office of LASP. Chester

¹ King, "The Drum Major," 179.

County is the 25th wealthiest county per capita in the United States and the wealthiest per capita in Pennsylvania.² There are, however, areas of the county with people experiencing extreme poverty. Especially in family law cases, a difference in the party's financial resources creates a dynamic in which a more affluent parent can afford to hire an expensive attorney, leaving the other parent with nowhere to turn. LASP helps to bridge the gap by helping those people fight against a spouse or other family member who are essentially trying to bully them into losing custody of their children. If one parent having more money meant that they have more of a right to their children than a parent who cannot afford a private attorney the system would be an unjust and cruel.

I am proud of my involvement with LASP because, while the child's best interest was the paramount concern, a common motto around the office was, "Just because someone has X problem (e.g. a past drug problem, mental health issues, etc.), doesn't mean they shouldn't see their child." Even if a parent can't handle overnight visitation when they're working on getting themselves clean, a child should know his or her parents. With this motto in mind, I also learned how to keep our client's expectations realistic. This approach helped me to work on my interpersonal skills, particularly my weakness of not wanting to tell people things that will make them unhappy. It's still not an easy thing for me to do but I know I've improved over the course of the summer and I am happy to be moving in the right direction.

Through my experiences with LASP this summer, I have come away with a new understanding of Dr. King's Drum Major sermon. For me, I now believe that looking to truly help those around me does not just mean being recognized and remembered as someone who served others. What I want to accomplish in my professional career going forward is for the people I serve to know that someone cares about them and will fight for them. I will fight for equal access to justice and aspire to work towards a truly blind justice system. In his sermon, Dr. King references that a church is a place at which everyone leaves their degrees at the door, and everyone joins together in worship. Our justice system should reflect the same "equality before all" approach that Dr. King references in his speech. I look forward to using my education to further Dr. King's vision through a career in public service and being the zealous advocate my future clients deserve.

² Carol Morello, *The D.C. suburbs dominate the list of wealthiest U.S. counties*, WASH. POST, (Dec. 12, 2017), https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2017/12/12/the-d-c-suburbs-dominate-the-list-of-wealthiest-u-s-counties/?utm_term=.7145c7f37a1a.

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A Prescription for Healthcare Advocacy

My induction into the world of healthcare began when I was first hired by CVS/Pharmacy as a technician in August 2013. Since then, I have learned to translate doctors' hieroglyphics into readable prescriptions, maintain inventory, and solve prescription coverage problems. The coordination of insurance carriers often requires communication with the companies themselves, prescribing doctors, and various medical facilities. These problems are compounded when prior authorizations are involved or denials are issued for medications. My role as a technician is to serve as the liaison between those aforementioned parties and the consumers. These consumers cannot afford to wait for life-sustaining medications to be approved or pay costly out-of-pocket copays. As such, my timelines are condensed to find effective solutions. My nearly four years of working in the pharmacy and witnessing the repeated healthcare issues faced by consumers inspired me to consider other ways to advocate for individuals struggling with health-related concerns. The natural next step for me was advocacy through legal representation, thus, I applied to Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

Because of my interest in health law, I elected to spend my summer advocating for clients through the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP). PHLP's core mission is to help low-income, elderly, and disabled people access the healthcare they deserve through direct representation, policy development, and consumer education. As a legal intern with PHLP, I managed my own caseload, serviced the Helpline, and conducted targeted legal research aimed at improving consumer experiences with managed care organizations (MCOs). My individual client advocacy work focused on helping clients obtain or retain their publicly-funded health insurance, long-term care and home health aide services, and durable medical equipment. I also represented clients in their appeals against MCOs when services were improperly denied.

Throughout my summer, I provided legal services to more than 20 clients. These clients struggled with navigating the complex meanderings of the Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare systems, which included both application and appeal processes. I assisted multiple clients with obtaining Medicaid by determining their eligibility based on income, work history, and disability. In some cases, I directly intervened with county assistance offices (CAOs) when

certain clients needed their applications expedited because of urgent medical concerns that rendered it impractical to delay approval. For other clients who had healthcare coverage, there was confusion regarding their type of coverage and the ways in which to utilize that coverage. To best service them, my communications with those clients involved lengthy explanations of benefits and coordination of benefits.

At the conclusion of my summer internship, I am most humbled by the opportunity I had to represent twin sisters, Kamryn and Kyara, in their first level grievances on July 12, 2018. I initially conducted their intakes when I first started my internship in June. Kamryn and Kyara present with complex health needs resulting from their premature births, which require individual home health aides to assist with all daily living activities and provide constant supervision. For eight years, UPMC provided two home health aides to the twins until recently, when UPMC issued a denial notice stating that two aides were no longer medically necessary as they could instead share one aide. UPMC's denial originated from its misinterpretation of shorthand notes written by the twins' aides. UPMC concluded that their father was available in the home to provide care. At the times in question, their father was at work and utterly unavailable. Since UPMC incorrectly assumed that there was an able and available caregiver during those times, the twins' cases presented a readily appealable denial.

The case that I presented to the grievance review panel demonstrated the necessity of two home health aides and the inability of their father to provide care through my own opening statement, testimony from their mother, and a direct examination of their nursing supervisor. UPMC failed to provide documentation to show that the medical necessity for the previously approved two home health aides had changed. There were also no changes in either twin's medical condition that warranted a reduction in the number of aides. Additionally, UPMC cannot deny home health aide services solely on the basis that a parent can perform those tasks, unless the MCO can provide documentation attesting to the fact that the parent is actually available and able to provide the extent of care required, considering the parent's work schedule, personal responsibilities, and miscellaneous responsibilities in the home. A few hours after the grievances concluded, I was notified by the twins' mother that UPMC overturned its denial and reinstated the two aides. Thankfully, UPMC agreed with me that its denial was improper, so Kamryn and Kyara can continue to receive the care that is necessary to maintain their health, safety, and quality of life.

These two grievances were important not only for their positive outcomes, but also because of how they have impacted my career as a budding legal professional. These cases

honed my client communication skills as I gathered documents for case file exhibits and organized testimony, strengthened my ability to condense and articulate legal research, and improved my development and execution of case strategies. The skills that I have acquired from both experiences will be utilized to benefit future clients.

As I reflect on my summer experiences at PHLP, I recall Dr. King's "Drum Major Instinct" Sermon as I remember why I invest my time in health law and public interest work. As Dr. King urges us to do, we must harness our individual drum major instincts that initially push us towards vain pursuits and instead focus on developing our moral compass and serving our neighbors. We succeed not when we have money, material possessions, or fame, but when we are "first in love...first in moral excellence...first in generosity." Public interest workers are compensated by client success stories which is a currency far more valuable than that received by most employees.

John Ukenye
Washington University School of Law
J.D. Candidate 2020
Neighborhood Legal Services Association



Servant-Leadership

Just a year ago, I was graduating from college and had little idea of what law school would bring. A year later, with a full year of legal education under my belt, I found myself working for Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) through the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. (PLAN) Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Summer Internship Program. Not only am I working in a reputable public interest legal organization in the heart of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but I have also been able to explore the surrounding area and meet many more likeminded people than I ever would have imagined before I applied for this position last winter, let alone a year ago. Through my work, I have been learned about myself through the very people I serve as well as seen firsthand what it means to be a servant-leader.

I, like many others, decided to pursue a legal education because I wanted to help people. Unlike many others however, I was raised by two immigrant parents who sacrificed everything for me. I had an ever growing desire to give back to others as others have given to me. I first truly experienced service while in middle school. My school, Belen Jesuit, required a number of community service hours each year and upon graduation. It never felt like an obligation, but instead it was something that I looked forward to doing. I soon realized that I wanted to dedicate at least part of my life to serving others.

Through Model United Nations, in which I participated from 7th grade to senior year of high school, I developed skills in public speaking and discovered how policy can help individuals in the world's poorest communities. I knew then that I wanted to harness and maximize my skills to help as many people as I could. The law appeared to be the best avenue to do that.

Fast forwarding to my first year in law school, I am the first in my family to go to law school and one of the few to attend college at all. I knew that I wanted service to be a part of my future, and I knew I wanted to experience public interest law early in my career. I knew I wanted do public interest work this summer but it was a matter of choosing where.

Pittsburgh was the first city my father lived in upon moving to the United States. He spent most of his teenage years and his first collegiate years here. Also, his brother worked his way up to owning his own restaurant that became successful in its own day. I wanted to come back to the place that first welcomed my family. In the Pittsburgh spirit, it did the same for me. I have easily gotten along with my fellow interns, many of whom are either locals or attend the local law schools and embodied the communal, accepting nature that gives this city its reputation.

The clientele is composed of low-to-no income individuals, reduced private and other subsidized housing tenants. Prior to working at NLSA, I had vaguely heard of how some landlords treat tenants, but

never really knew to the extent that my clients were being taken advantage of. NLSA indeed serves an important purpose; providing civil court representation to society's poorest. In cases where NLSA cannot step in, hundreds of tenants represent themselves *pro se* in magisterial and common pleas courts against more poised and seasoned landlords, and sometimes legal counsel. Most of these tenants know nothing of the law, let alone the various steps to the appeals process. Single mothers are left homeless. Young families are left fighting for their safety alone.

As a first year law student, I was surprised with the amount of access I have had to helping these clients. I have written legal advice letters and pointed them to private and public resources. I have assisted certified interns and staff attorneys in gathering research and paperwork to represent these clients as well as attended Housing Authority (Section 8) and Magisterial District Court hearings. I have filled the role of a counselor by lending an ear to client problems and stories. The biggest reward thus far is the constant gratitude from clients when they say "this is the first time someone has listened to me throughout this process" and "thank goodness this isn't the end for me" when I make them aware of the appeals process.

Outside of my work, I have been able to be involved in the political activism community in the Allegheny County area. I have been able to network with local leaders, attorneys, and active, engaged citizens of the area.

My summer experience has not been limited to my 9 to 5 job and the diversity in my interactions with clients. I have also been able to branch out and see first-hand the other corners of the community. In many ways, I have felt at home.

I have always desired to be remembered through the work I do during my lifetime as a servant-leader. A servant-leader listens first, thinks of proactive solutions, and is constantly putting others before self. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King said in his "The Drum Major Instinct" sermon in 1968: "If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness."

Juliana Vergara
Wake Forest University School of Law
J.D. Candidate 2019
Justice At Work



A Life Serving Others

I came to law school with hopes of one day being able to assist those in need and to one day use the power of knowledge and expertise to help individuals who need it the most. After a very long journey, I believe I have finally started to fulfill this dream.

My mother and I immigrated to the United States from Colombia when I was just a year old. At the age of 13, I faced an extreme uncertainty that most kids would never dream of- the fear of deportation. With the help of an immigration attorney, my mother and I successfully adjusted our status and became legal permanent residents (LPRs). I longed to know how my mother and I became LPRs. I made it my purpose from the day that we received the good news that I, too, would one day assist people like my mother and myself when I fully understood the complexity of immigration law.

I have attempted to live up to this promise for many years. Beginning with the summer after my junior year of college, I began my first internship where I focused primarily on immigration law. I continued to keep my focus in mind as I applied to different law schools during my senior year of college. During my first year of law school, I did my best to try to join every club and organization related to immigration and to take classes on the subject. I was desperate to learn as much as I could in the little time that I had.

The summer following my first year of law school I came across a wonderful opportunity to intern at Human Rights First, a non-profit organization which focuses solely on asylum claims. I learned an immense amount of information that summer and met incredible people. The work I did focused primarily on intakes for individuals seeking asylum. Listening to their stories was heartbreaking and difficult but to feel as though I was helping even a single person succeed in their claim made it easy.

By the time I went back for my second year of law school I felt accomplished and satisfied that I had done good work. After many years of waiting, I became a U.S. citizen in October of 2017. However, that sense of happiness did not last for long. With Donald Trump as the new president, a wave of fear and sadness washed over immigrants and their families. The Trump Administration quickly began to attack immigration policies; policies that have protected the most deserving and vulnerable immigrants such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

(DACA) recipients and asylum seekers. During the next few months, I realized that what I previously accomplished still did not measure up. I needed to do more.

When the opportunity to work at Justice at Work (JAW), formerly known as Friends of Farmworkers, presented itself, I immediately knew it was the right fit. I knew that I would have the opportunity to keep helping and making a difference, but I had no idea to what extent.

JAW focuses on supporting low-wage workers pursue economic and social justice. That is their focus, but in reality what they do is so much more. JAW primarily assists individuals who have been the victims of a crime or of trafficking in applying for U and T non-immigrant visas. These individuals have been mistreated, abused, neglected, and taken advantage of in terrible ways.

Upon hearing the name “Friends of Farmworkers”, I mostly expected to look at wage claims and a few visa applications. But what I have done this summer exceeded all of my expectations. In seven short weeks, I had the opportunity to work on T and U visa cover letters, file immigration forms for adjustment of status, translate documents, complete background asset checks on employers, answer numerous immigration research questions, write memos, and even research questions pertaining to civil claims against employers.

It is difficult to envision the incredible structure, love, and support that JAW provides for its interns, its clients, and its community unless you experience it for yourself. During my time at JAW, I primarily assisted two supervising attorneys. From my first day, these two attorneys took the time to get to know me, to answer any questions that I had, and to provide adequate feedback on every assignment I received. There was not a single day where I felt that I could not go to either of them, or to anyone else in the office with any concern. This support that they showed me was similarly projected to their clients. Observing these two young attorneys gracefully, and kindly, serving numerous clients everyday finally helped me put my thoughts at ease and my goals into perspective

Serving others and making the world a better place is not a one-time occurrence, and it is not, and should not, be something that we do for just a short period of time or until we feel virtuous enough to stop. In his “Drum Major Instinct” Sermon, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about individuals wanting praise, and he stated ““You know, there are some people who just join everything. And it’s really a quest for attention and recognition and importance.” I agree with these words and I recognize this flaw in others and in myself. Joining clubs and organizations will not fulfill the vision that I have carried with me for so long. I know I need to do more and to

act as selflessly as possible for the sake of those in need. It was difficult to envision a way to accomplish my dreams as selflessly as possible, but this summer I saw it with my own eyes.

Working at JAW finally allowed me to see what it truly means to serve others. These attorneys and paralegals enter their offices everyday with one mission and, together, with their different areas of expertise, they combine to create a force powerful enough to assist those who did not have a way out. To some, this type of law is simply filling out forms, but what is being done at JAW is far greater. It is helping those who have experienced great grief; it is helping people live a better life; to be reunited with family; and to have a stable home. These are simple luxuries which some take for granted and which comes at great costs to others. The services that JAW provides has helped to close the gap between these inequalities. I am proud to say that I assisted them.

Just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated in his “Drum Major Instinct” sermon, I too, wish to have someone say at my funeral that I tried to give my life serving others and that, I too, tried to love and serve humanity. My opportunity to fulfill this dream has already started coming true thanks to JAW. It has been nothing but an honor and a privilege to be under the guidance of every attorney and paralegal this summer and to continue to serve the needs of immigrants. I humbly look forward to continuing this path in my career.

Cykhira N. Walton
Widener University Commonwealth Law School
J.D. Candidate 2020
Philadelphia Legal Assistance



Greatness Comes From Humble Servitude

My name is Cykhira Walton and I am a current student at Widener Commonwealth Law School and a participant in the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Summer Internship Program. This summer, I had the opportunity of interning at Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA). While at PLA, I worked in the General Intake Unit, which meant I assisted and advised clients on various legal issues such as probate/estate matters, birth certificate corrections, unemployment compensation, small claims court, homeownership rights, public benefits, and mortgage and real estate tax foreclosure. I gained practical experience by interviewing clients, preparing pleadings and other written documents, performing legal research, and attending court hearings and panel discussions. Prior to law school, I had no idea of the countless career opportunities attorneys can venture into but this summer has truly opened my eyes, my mind, and my heart to a new form of selfless lawyering.

Growing up in Philadelphia, I was exposed to the disproportionate criminal justice system at a young age. I witnessed children, who were not quite teenagers, being escorted away in handcuffs for mere truancy violations. I witnessed these same children come back home completely different with worse attitudes and behaviors than before placement. These kids were exposed to more violence, conniving ways, greed, and selfish acts while in placement and brought those learned behaviors back out into the real world with them. When those same kids came home, they didn't see these new traits as negative but rather as new "survival skills." For most of them, that one time in placement was the beginning of a life in and out of placement and eventually prison. I was not sure how I would help these kids but I knew they needed someone to be their voice in those tough situations and that was a role I was ready to take on. A seed of optimism was planted inside of me and despite how the courts labeled these kids, I knew all they needed was someone who understood them and was willing to fight for them.

The idea of being able to provide free legal assistance to people with civil matters was introduced to me during my first semester of law school. The Black Law Student Association (BLSA) held a panel discussion of current and former students, who discussed their practical experience through interning or externships. One of the students discussed his summer internship

through Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. (PLAN). He spoke with so much passion and vigor that I had to follow up with him and learn more about how he put his legal knowledge to use to help the underrepresented while still in law school. I was surprised and happy to learn there are many agencies that allow law students to gain practical professional and legal skills while providing critical legal aid to clients. After being accepted as an intern into the program, I was beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to assist Philadelphians for the summer, especially in the public interest sector because I was less familiar with that type of work. Prior to the start of my internship, all I could think about was the people who I would help and how nervous I thought I would be to offer legal advice that I just learned over the last eight months.

When my internship first started, I was an eager beaver and wanted to help clients on day one even though I did not have any training yet. Training lasted for about a week. Each session gave me insight on the type of issues clients usually had when they contacted PLA and taught me how to be an active listener while issue spotting through client recantation of their problem. I thought about the clients I would serve and grew more excited and happier because through the trainings, I gained more knowledge on how to better assist my future clients. These clients who would come from all over Philadelphia seeking legal advice and I was getting prepared to help as many people as possible in a short span of time.

My whole experience has been truly humbling and unforgettable. One day while I was doing an in-office intake with a couple, I left the room to get my clients some water before the intake began. When I came back, I advised the couple that I was a law student intern under the supervision of an attorney. The couple smiled and pointed to a mug on my desk that said, “Trust me, I’m ALMOST a lawyer,” and the elderly gentleman said, “Sweetie, if you’re sitting in this office with all these lawyers and are here to assist people in need of legal advice, you are already a lawyer.” I was shocked and at a loss for words. I did not provide any legal services to the couple yet, but my clients were already appreciative of me. The couple was seeking to sue a contractor in small claims court for failing to fix damages he did to their property after he completed services for them. Even though PLA does not represent clients in small claims court, I was able to assist them with the legwork of starting a complaint in small claims court.

Throughout the summer, I looked forward to the small victories I provided to our clients. Some of them were appreciative of my kind words; others of my willingness to listen to them; others commended my efforts to find solutions to problems that were atypical to PLA but not the hearts of the attorneys who do their job efficiently and effectively not for money. The paychecks are not big by any means but because of their willingness to give back to the underrepresented,

their willingness to fight for those who do not know there's a battle to fight, and their willingness to accrue thousands of dollars in debt only to graduate and serve others rather than themselves. The hearts of public interest attorneys beat to a drum of servitude. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that the drum major instinct is "a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade." That is not true of the attorneys I met and worked with this summer. They had a desire to inform the members of the parade of how they can help make a difference in their own communities; they have a desire to change policies that negatively affect low-income people more than the average person, and a desire to be the change they want to see in the world. If I were to lead the parade, I would miss all the people behind me who need help, so I'd rather be in the parade, stopping when needed to help others but never missing a beat.

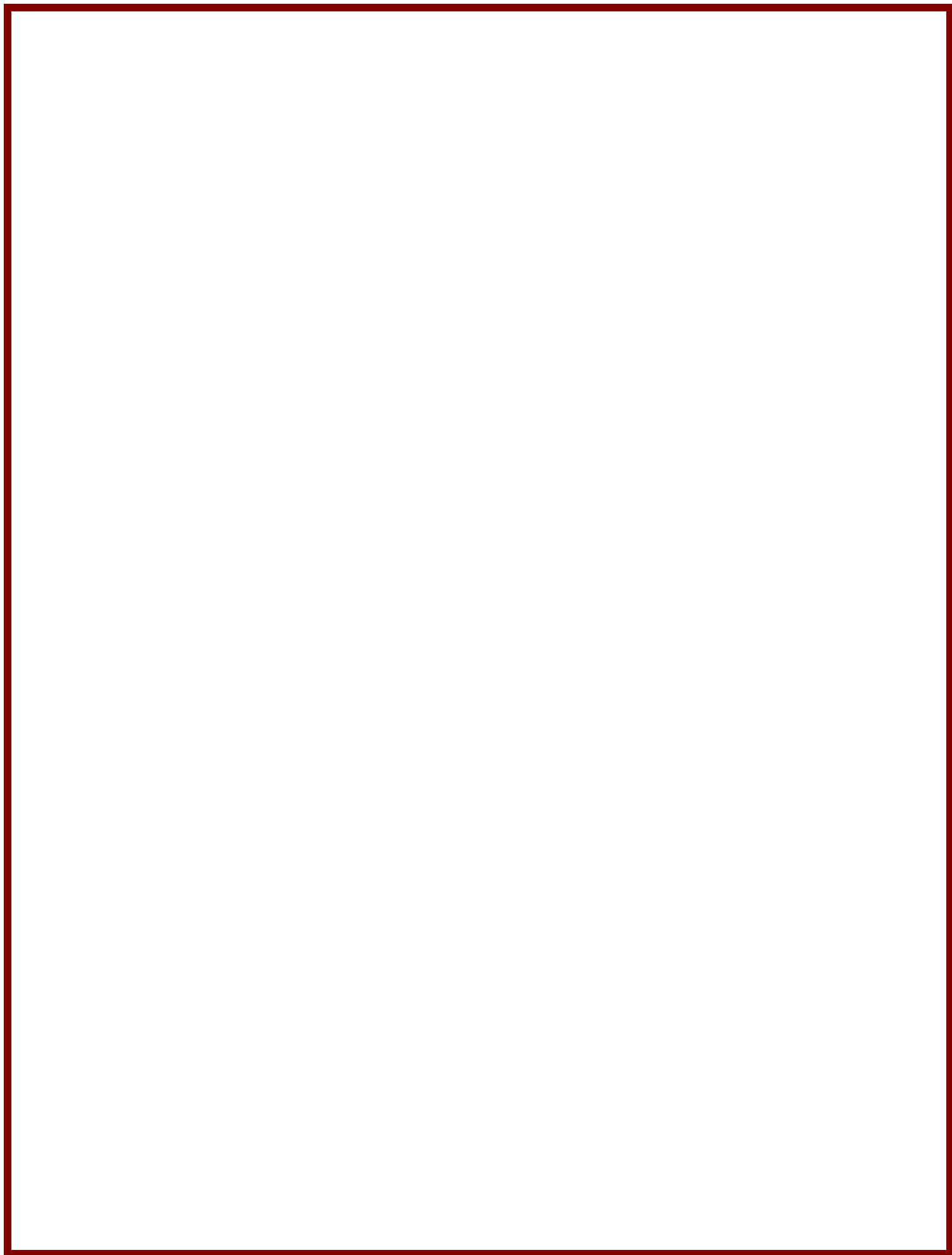
This summer experience has been very uplifting and humbling. It has shown me different sides of the legal aid and all the ways I can make a difference through more than lawyering but by being engaged in the community and uplifting the people in the community. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Summer Internship Program. This placement afforded me the opportunity to work in a field in which I had little knowledge. I am leaving more empowered to continue a career providing legal services to the underrepresented. It showed me another way to become the voice of the people.

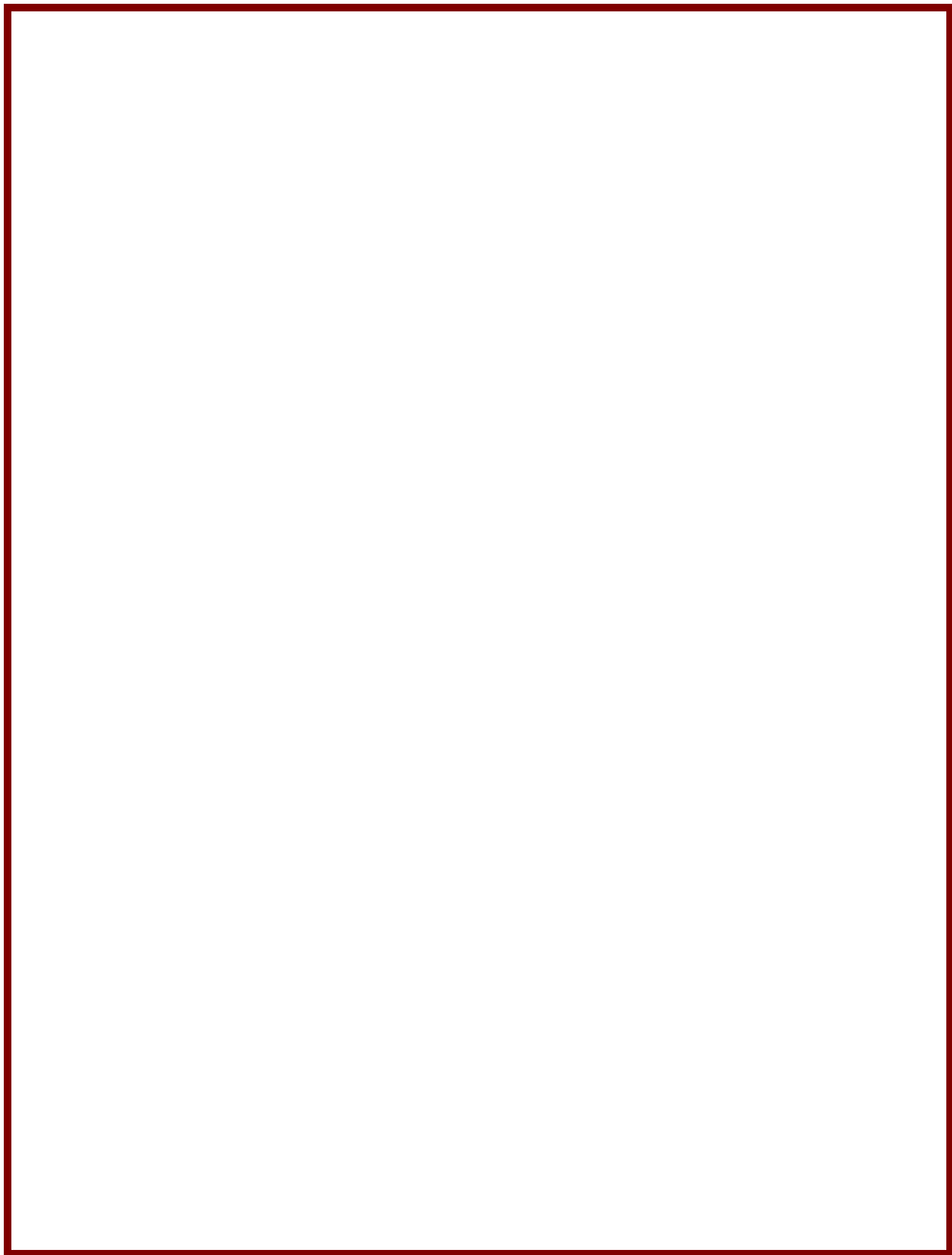
Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship Program

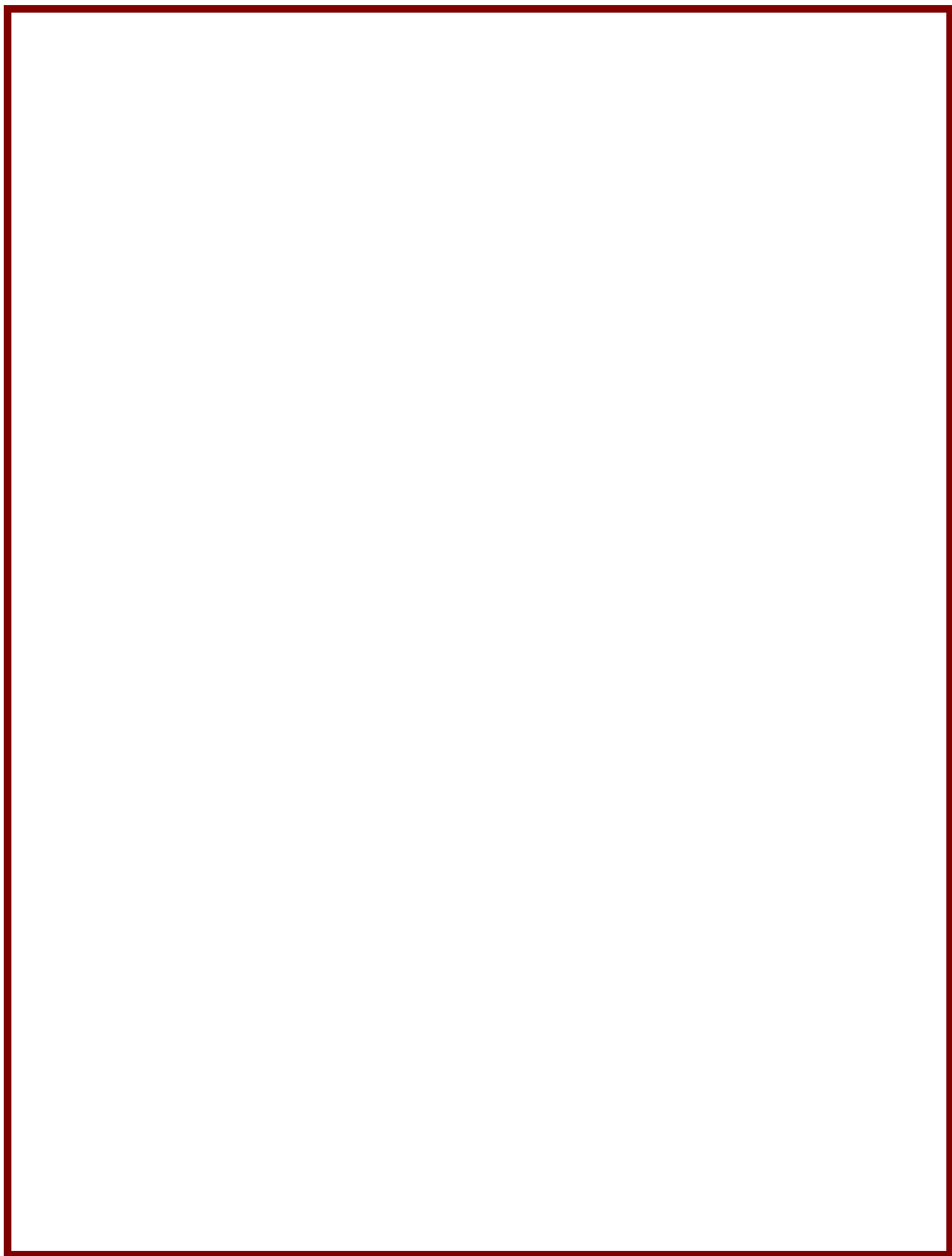
Class of 2018



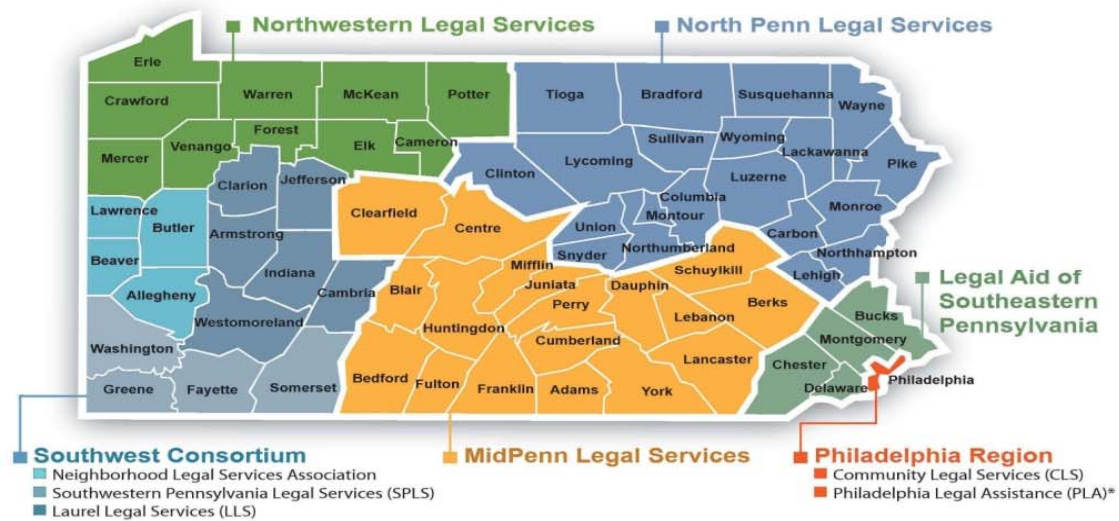
Back row left to right: Glory Brown, Supriya Philips,
Daniel Cortes, John Ukenye, Sara Planthaber, and Queenette Echefu.
Front row left to right: Giovanna Brackbill, Alexandra J. Robinson,
Juliana Vergara, and Cykhira N. Walton.







Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN)



Regional Programs

Community Legal Services
 Laurel Legal Services
 Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania
 MidPenn Legal Services
 Neighborhood Legal Services Association
 North Penn Legal Services
 Northwestern Legal Services
 Philadelphia Legal Assistance
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services

Specialty Programs

Community Justice Project
 Justice At Work (Formerly Friends of Farmworkers)
 Pennsylvania Health Law Project
 Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
 Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
 Regional Housing Legal Services

Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network

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