



"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.

*Summer 2018 Newsletter*

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program Update

This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our successful summer internship program. The program, which is designed to promote and support minority attorneys' work in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) programs across the Commonwealth, has hosted a total of 362 law students to date. The goal of the program is to initiate future attorneys to the lifelong commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay and to promote diversity in PLAN programs. Ten paid internships are awarded each summer to law students who participate in legal services work over a 10 week period. This year, PLAN hosted 10 interns. A one-day poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship. At the end of the program, interns are also asked to complete an essay sharing their summer experiences which are compiled into a booklet called the MLK Intern Drum Major Essay Collection. The booklets are distributed at our annual recognition reception and shared on our website. To read this year's essays, click here: <https://palegalaid.net/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-07/2018-Drum-Major-Essays.pdf>

## Class of 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Interns



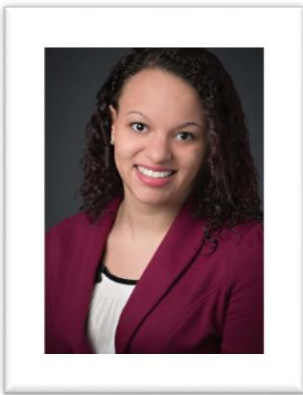
**Back row left to right:** Glory Brown, Supriya Philips, Daniel Cortes, John Ukenye, Sara Planthaber, and Queenette Echefu.  
**Front row left to right:** Giovanna Brackbill, Alexandra J. Robinson, Juliana Vergara, and Cykhira N. Walton.

## Meet Our Newest Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows

Congratulations to our 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Fellowship Recipients Joel L. DeMary and Marissa Lawall. In August, Joel and Marissa will join the staffs of Northwestern Legal Services (NWLS) and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP).

### About Joel

**Joel**, a former Peggy Browning Fellow for Community Justice Project, received his JD in May from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in Philosophy from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Joel's upbringing and genuine interest in public service, as evidenced in his work with the Allegheny County Public Defender and Allegheny County Family Court Pro Se Department, make him a natural fit for the client population we serve. His work at NWLS will be providing direct service representation to clients in the areas of family law, housing, public benefits, and barriers to employment.



### About Marissa

**Marissa**, MLK Intern Class of 2017, received her JD in May from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law and graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice and minors in Psychology and Economics from Cedar Crest College. Marissa dedicated her law school career to public interest work and is committed to giving a legal voice to individuals who may not otherwise have an opportunity to be heard. Among other responsibilities, Marissa will be delivering legal assistance at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project to medically fragile children whose requests for in-home care are denied, reduced or eliminated. She will also assist Medicaid-eligible Pennsylvanians to maximize in-home service through written and oral advocacy efforts.

## Current Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows Continue to Shine

In our previous newsletter, we introduced you to **Kadeem Morris**.

Kadeem began his fellowship at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP) in August 2017. Kadeem's responsibilities include staffing the program's utility hotline, drafting briefs and interrogatories for large scale litigation, conducting web-based and in-person trainings, and meeting with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and other community partners in an effort to assist Pennsylvania low-income residential utility and energy consumers connect to and maintain



affordable utility and energy services within their homes. Kadeem is a member of and participates in various PLAN law group events.



We also introduced you to **Hermionne Cadet**. Hermionne also began her fellowship at MidPenn Legal Services (MPLS) in August 2017. Hermionne is heavily involved in the MPLS HOPE Shelter Project. She regularly visits homeless shelters to do outreach and assist clients with housing, custody, divorce, social security and Protection From Abuse (PFA) matters. She also provides direct representation to clients involved in custody and PFA cases. Like Kadeem, Hermionne is a member of and participates in various PLAN law group events.

## Fellowship Program Success

We are extremely pleased with the success of the MLK Fellowship Program. Since its inception in 2004, 22 lawyers have been placed as fellows with PLAN legal aid programs and scores of other former interns have entered other public interest careers. The Fellowship Program is an integral part of PLAN, Inc.'s goal to initiate new lawyers into public interest law careers. PLAN, Inc. partners with a sponsoring regional or specialty legal services program and pays 50% of the Fellow's salary, benefits, and student loan assistance up to \$5500 each per year of the two year fellowship. Salary is commensurate with that of the sponsoring program.

In the past fiscal year, PLAN programs handled about 66,000 client cases; saving their homes from foreclosure, protecting them from domestic violence, securing health insurance, establishing custody stability for children, and helping clients in many other ways.

The Fellowship Program has a proven track record of launching minority law students into careers as public interest lawyers and legal aid attorneys and has generated a reliable recruitment pool for legal aid organizations. PLAN, Inc. appreciates the financial support and sponsorships it receives from Pennsylvania law firms, businesses, and individuals to help support this program. PLAN, Inc. does not realize any of these sponsorship funds, but funnels them directly to the salary and benefits of our fellows. PLAN, Inc. also appreciates the financial support of this program from the Department of Human Services and the Pa. IOLTA Board. Our goal is to place at least 2 fellows per fiscal year. You can help by donating to our Fellowship Program. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. On the behalf of PLAN, Inc., we thank you for your support.

## Thank You

PLAN, Inc. wishes to thank and acknowledge the following for their generous support of the MLK Fellowship Program since its inception.

Allentown Branch of the NAACP  
Ballard Spahr, LLP  
Bazelon Less & Feldman, PC  
Blank & Rome, LLP  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC  
Campbell & Levine, LLC  
Carl Oxholm, III  
Christie & Young, PC  
Cozen O'Conner  
David L. Hyman and Farah Jimenez  
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC  
Dilworth Paxson, LLP  
Drexel University, Office of the General Counsel  
Drexel University, Office of the Information Resources and Technology  
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP  
Duane Morris, LLP  
Duffy & Partners  
Eckert, Seamans, Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Elizabeth Daulton  
Esther Spear  
Farrell & Reisinger, LLC  
Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig, LLP  
Fox Rothschild, LLP  
Francine Thornton Boone  
Frank Miles  
Frommer D'Amico Anderson, LLC  
Gay, Chacker & Mittin, PC  
Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller  
Hershey Entertainment and Resorts  
Honorable Gerald A. McHugh, Jr. and Maureen E. Tate  
In Memoriam of Dorothy Ridley-Leftwich  
In Memoriam of Leonard Spear  
Independence Foundation  
James Giles  
James P. and Linda DeAngelo  
Jeff Ernico  
Jennifer Deitchman  
John Frommer  
John Giles  
Jonathan Hollin  
Juan and Delise Williams  
Kleinbard, LLC  
Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett, PC  
Leroy Zimmerman

Martin LLC  
McEldrew & Fullam, PC  
McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC  
Mette, Evans & Woodside  
Morgan Lewis, LLP  
Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, LLP  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC  
Pansini & Mezrow  
Pelino & Lentz  
Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Trial Lawyers' Association  
Pennsylvania Bar Association  
Pennsylvania Healthcare Providers Insurance Company, LLC  
Pepper Hamilton, LLP  
Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti, LLP  
Raynes McCarty  
Reed Smith, LLP  
Rohm & Haas  
Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, PC  
Samuel and Roseanne Spear  
Saul Ewing, LLP  
Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, LLP  
Schwab Charitable Foundation  
Sorin Rand, LLP  
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP  
Thomas Jefferson University, Office of University Counsel  
Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, LLP  
Toby Oxholm  
Tucker Law Group, LLC  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
White & Williams, LLP  
Widener University School of Law  
Wolf, Block, Schoor & Solis-Cohen, LLP  
Woodcock Washburn, LLP

To learn more about PLAN, Inc.'s MLK Summer Internship and Fellowship Programs or to donate, please visit the PLAN, Inc. website at <https://palegalaid.net/internships-fellowships> or contact:

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.  
Administrative Officer  
1-800-322-7572, ext. 216  
[amarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net](mailto:amarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net)

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. The official registration and financial information of Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling, toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. EIN #23-1892464. Registration does not imply endorsement.