

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, 382 law students have participated in the program.

Summer internships are available throughout the PLAN network 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 PLAN, Inc.'s 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

2020 MLK Jr. Summer Interns



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 and a half 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. MLK Interns receive a stipend of \$7500 for the 10 week period of employment.

"I am grateful to be a part of the legacy of the PLAN Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship Program. it gives me great pride to be a part of a cohort that is pursuing public interest law to serve disenfranchised communities." *Sharai Bryan, Penn State Law, Community Legal Services*

"It is hard for law students to understand how the countless cases we read for our classes may have been handled in the real world. Through my experience working at Neighborhood Legal Services, I have learned that much more happens behind the words memorialized on the pages of a book." *Zane Gates, Widener Commonwealth Law School,*

Legal aid provides services to the underprivileged people of our society. It is an excellent way to practice the "drum major instinct" of Dr. King. As an intern of the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Program, I had a great opportunity to serve justice, peace, and righteousness. *Bingran Li, Penn State Dickinson Law*

"Working at Justice at Work gave me the opportunity to work with clients, attend immigration and employment workshops, write legal memos, and receive constructive feedback on my work. My host program prepared its interns by including us in their staff meetings and giving us "brown bag" days to learn about client interviewing techniques, legal writing and research practices, and affidavit writing. They have been molding me to become a better law student and future lawyer so that I can work diligently towards righteousness and justice." *Ashley G. Reyes, Widener University Delaware Law School*



2020 MLK Intern Class Representative
Iman Woodyard, Penn State Dickinson Law

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.

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 professional references.
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Send a cover letter, resume, transcript, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample.

Address to:

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.
Administrative Officer
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

For additional information about the summer internship or fellowship program, contact
Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
Administrative Officer
1-800-322-7572, ext. 216
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Pennsylvania
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Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network, Inc.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship

&

Fellowship Program

2021

*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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**An Opportunity to
Make a Difference**