

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, 392 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

2021 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.

“When I started the process of applying to law schools, I did so with the realization that I would be in possession of both a gift and a responsibility when receiving a legal education. We are given immense power and are entrusted to use it in ways that pursue justice and improve the world in which we live. I am humbled by this and even more so after spending time with the attorneys at North Penn Legal Services. I will remember the lessons I learned and the people I met, and the vulnerability I saw.” *Copper Townsend, Villanova Law*

“I had the privilege of interning at Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid. I spent most of my summer interviewing clients, researching laws, and filing petitions on behalf of families and individuals who have experienced domestic violence and child neglect. As a law student who never worked in civil law, this experience exposed me to a new dimension of society.” *Octavia Williams, Pitt Law*

“Through the PLAN MLK Internship program, I witnessed how my fellow MLK interns serve clients, advocate for policies, and affect change. It was an honor to work with each of these great lawyers and law students.” *Madelyn Snyder, Penn State Dickinson Law*

“My experience at Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania not only gave me an incredible opportunity to learn about the kind of attorney I want to be, but it also gave me the chance to use my drum major instinct and serve the people in my community. I was fortunate enough to gain experience working one-on-one with clients, learned from them, and got to see how even the smallest of actions can make a positive difference.” *Nicole Bennett, Penn State 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.

2021 MLK Intern Class Representative
Gabrielle Francis, Widener Commonwealth Law School

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

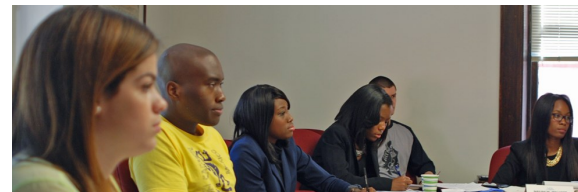
For additional information about the summer internship or fellowship program, contact
Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
Administrative Officer
1-800-322-7572, ext. 216
amarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net

Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network, Inc.

Louise Brookins Building
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1414
Phone 717-236-9486
(toll free): 800-322-7572
Fax: 717-233-4088

www.palegalaid.net

Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network, Inc.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship

&

Fellowship Program

2022

*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*

Funding for the Martin Luther King, Jr. program
is provided by Pennsylvania IOLTA and the
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

**An Opportunity to
Make a Difference**