

Celebrate 30 YEARS

2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship & Fellowship Program Summer 2022 Newsletter



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963



CONTENTS

03

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

05

A LOOK BACK AT 30 YEARS
OF MLK, JR. INTERNS

10

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

22

THANK YOU TO OUR
TRAINERS

23

SPECIAL
ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
MLK, JR. PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATORS

25

MLK, JR. INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM & CLASS OF 2022

27

MLK, JR. FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

34

THANK YOU TO OUR
CONTRIBUTORS

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

It is truly remarkable to be celebrating the 30th anniversary of PLAN's Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK, Jr.) Summer Internship Program. The program was conceived at a time when today's discussions of racial equity and justice were – as Dr. King might put it – merely a “dream.” The program was created through the efforts of five Black women: Edie Benson, Carolyn Johnson, Debi Johnson, Linda Renick, and Phyllis Stevens. Fondly known as the “Founding Mothers,” these women recognized the need to create a PLAN diversity pipeline. They felt it was important for PLAN attorneys to be more representative of the client population they serve, a majority diverse population. These women worked alongside members of the PLAN and client community, including Mrs. Louise Brookins, to convince funders to provide funding to support the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program. Since the program's inception in 1991, 402 law students have participated in the program.

In 2003, an evaluation of the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program revealed that while the program was successful, its full potential had yet to be realized. In response, PLAN created the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program in 2004. To date, PLAN has hired a total of 29 MLK, Jr. Fellows, 12 of whom remain employed by PLAN. While the others may have moved on from the PLAN network, many remain committed to public interest work. Please see page 27 to learn more about the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program and to hear from our current Fellows.

In PLAN's ongoing commitment to the success of its MLK, Jr. Programming and expansion of its diversity efforts throughout the network, PLAN, Inc. recently announced Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esquire as PLAN's first Director of Diversity, Equity, Including, and Belonging (DEIB). Arlene, a former MLK, Jr. Intern, Class of 2005, is the first woman of color to hold a senior leadership role at PLAN, Inc. Shortly thereafter, the PLAN Board of Directors appointed Jayme Cassidy, Esquire, also a woman of color, as the next Executive Director of PLAN, Inc.

As PLAN Director of DEIB, Arlene will continue to oversee the MLK, Jr. Programming and support PLAN Affinity Groups while concentrating on supporting PLAN, Inc. and PLAN network programs in developing a vision and strategy around incorporating DEIB in all parts of the network's culture and operations, including hiring, retention, supervision, data collection and analysis, advocacy, and communication. Another important part of her role will be to assist PLAN, Inc. and PLAN programs in assessing their current DEIB status and implementing inclusiveness processes that aim to increase and sustain diversity among PLAN staff at all levels.

As you can see, PLAN has come a long way over the past 30 years. We are pleased with our diversity efforts, but work remains to be done. The continued success of our MLK, Jr. Programs depends not only on those within the PLAN network, but our community partners, funders, donors, and you, our readers. If you'd like to help ensure our programs' continued success, please see the last page of this newsletter to donate.

As always, PLAN appreciates your continued support, and we hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter!

A LOOK BACK AT 30 YEARS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERNS



1992 Stacie Barnes
Christine Biancheria
Jonathan Diego
Arthur Gamble
Lara Greco
Peter Guadagnino
Virginia Gutierrez
Dariel Janerette
Sharon López
Donna Marshall
Jacqueline Ware

1993 Lisa Bell
Robert Chambers, Jr.
Terrence Coles
Erik Collazo
James Fraser
Amy M. Garner
April D. Garrett
Cheryl T. Harris
Audrey Jordan
Adriana Katzew
Sharon Lawson-Davis
Anthony P. Litwin
Kimberly Merriweather
Lisa Newman
Maureen Olives
Mark Prior
Rhonda Redwood-Ray
Benjamin Reyes
Muriandra Ruffin
Roderick Scott
Leisa Sinclair-Vick
Lydia Tate
Chunping Shen
Tonya Williams

1994 Kim Adams
Farley Banks
Marcia Burton
Robert Cain III
Ijaz Chaudhry
Terence Coles
Eric Domfe
Amy Garner
Julie Gulley
Rene Johnson
Jacqueline Lewis
Karyn Lynn
Christina Molitor-Monrea
Lisa Newman
Diem-Thy Nguyen
Darnell Parker
Carmen Rivera
Muriandra Ruffin
Ruth Ruggero Hughs

Shakura Sabur
Sharee Sanders Gordon
Willie M. Saunders
Brenda Wiley
Debra Williams
Theresa Williams

1995 Ma'isha Lenore Amatullah Aziz
Kathleen Chess
Gailien Cosby
Marcus Devine
Natasha Dorcus
Todd Drayton
Angela George
Karen Hamberlin
Jeffery Hicks
Sandra Jacques
Pamela Janus
Rene Johnson
Min-Yen Jung
Edward Lanza
Emanuel "Manny" Oakes, Jr.
Robert Rosenwald
Marygrace Reese
Tricia (McDermott) Thompson
Rainie Thompson
Eduok Uwah
Felicia A. Wilcox
Brenda Lee Wiley
Tony B. Wilson
Catherine Williams-Frank
Joseph Youngblood

1996 Ma'isha Lenore Amatullah Aziz
Christopher Brown
Gailien Cosby
Karyn (Plivelic) Coy
Natasha Dorcus
Karen R. Edsell
Kelli Ford
Charlema Grant
Leola M. Hardy
Schaun Henry
Sandra L. Jacques
David Q. Jones
Tanique Lee
Jacqueline Marrast-Simpson
Charles Moore
Teleah (Scott) Moore
Marsha Murray
Stacy Y. Perry
Garline Octobre
James Schultz
Megan Tepper
Angela D. Terry

1997 Laura Austin
Christine A. Bailey
Bryan K. Barts
Christine Taylor Brann
Anthony Brown
Dakota Byfield
John DeSantis
Kia D. Floyd
Melvin Frye, Jr.
Roxanne Garner
Jacqueline Marrast-Simpson
Harold Yamil Mendez
Nabi Musoke
Akunna Nwachuku
Khoi Pham
Saulo Santiago
Donna Marie Sweeney
Baye Wilson

1998 Leslie Affleck
Charlene Alexander
Pierre Almonacy
Lindiwe Ashton
Y. Madeline Bach Nguyen
Anupam R. Biswas
Matthew Bomberger
Roger Louis Crawford
Rosemarie Davis
Tama Denson
Michael D. Grace
Roopal Gupta
Kristen Harris
Lavinia Jones
Leslie Faith Jones
Shanicka Kennedy
Karen Koenigsberg
Crystal L. Latimer
David Lopez
Desmond M. McCallum
Kenneth Muhammad
Jason Willis

1999 Daniel Butz
Winnie W. Chow
Norman M. De Moose
Sean Dougherty
Bernadette S. Finch
Jennifer A. Ford
Jerrion (Benjamin) Forrester
Jasroop Gill-Gakhal
Raquel Gomes Dinis
Doreen (Prescott) Grant
Cara Gruszecki-Smalley
Kristen Harris
Utpal Inamdar
Shanicka Kennedy

Byung-Chan "Ted" Moon
Nellita S. Moore
Oluseyi "Seyi" Olubadewo Page
Alicia Tracey-Ann Simpson
Jennifer A. Wentzel
Danielle S. Williams

2000 Zoya Bailey
Tabatha Castro
Stuart Crichton
Laurel Fedak
Cessalie V. Harris
Amy (Tuckett) Howell
David Johnston
Jaime M. Kulick
Kimberly Loyd
Robin C. Marable
David A. Miller
M. Albert Naranjo
Michelle Smith
Gertrude "Trudy" Strassburger
Jennifer (LaBelle) Traxler
Noah Weisberg
Helena Wooden-Aguilar

2001 Philip B. Balmaseda II
Jean Marie Bandish
Donna (Johnson) Bullock
Otis L. Bullock, Jr.
Leonardo David Cuello
Kristi Jasberg Robinson
Erik Kulick
William Corey McCaskill
Gregory Miller
Denita Neal
Samantha Phillips
Samuel L. Ruprecht
Mario Alvarez Serrano
Sean Shultz
Michelle L. Smith
Frankie Walker
Lena Wang

2002 Eugenia Amador
Jean Marie Bandish
Tsedey Berhanu
Leonardo David Cuello
Pawnee Davis
Christopher J. Harris
Cindy S. Huang
Mari Kargbo
Adele McDonald
Gregory Dion Miller
Cornell Mimms
America "Amy" Nieves-Febres
Abena Osei

Teresa M. Rodriguez
Terryl Simeina
James Snowden
Melissa Stampler Alberts

2003 Scott Brown
Nnenna Ezekoye
Michele (Miller) Freeman
O. Kemi Laniya
Abena Osei
Teresa Rodriguez
Ameer Shaikh
JaCina Stanton-Buttrom
Mandla Sukati
Shaleeta Washington

2004 Ishamael P. Alejo
Zarinah Akbar
Rafiah (Davis) Gilliam
Lynval G. Gray
Claudia (Junghwa) Kim
Jocelyn Mallory
Ernest Lee Poland
Candace Ragin
Jacob T. Stipe
Dionne Wiggins

2005 Zarinah Akbar
Arnold Bituin
Kathryn (Jones) Brown
Daniel Graham
Samara Gomez
Lynval G. Gray
Autumn Leah Johnson
Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith
Brian Pulito
Valente Rodriguez
Nexus U. Sea
Isadora Velazquez

2006 Zarinah Akbar
Arnold Bituin
Tahira M. Bland
Tighe Burns
Kristyan Rose Gilmore
Sipi (Shubhra) Gupta
Jeffry T. Johnson
Alma Magana
Christina M. Matthewson
Jesse A. Rodriguez
Suzanne Sekutowski Paryse
Trevor Taylor

2007 Bernardo Carbajal
Jacqueline Castaneda
Taisha Chambers

Karen Fernandez
Vanessa Yvette Flores Arrison
Joseph Palmerson
Seema Pereira-Palmerson
Rasheedah Phillips
Mark James Reccek
Justin P. Schantz

2008 Mukta Agrawal
Sakeenah S. El-Amin
Karen Fernandez
Amanda Franzen
Benjamin Haire
Emalohi L. Iruobe
Cherie Long-Hardin
Tedeisha Rowe
Sheldon Smith
Alejandro Ventura
Truniece White

2009 Abraham Cepeda
Shamika N. Creech
Sherrell L. Dandy
Emalohi L. Iruobe
Jenell Johnson
Martha P. Mosquera
Whitney D. Pryor
Danielle Dionne Owens
Chenelle Rollins
Ben Salehi
Laticia Spears

2010 Hannah Akintoye
Abraham Cepeda
Hughens Dolisca
Paul Hajjar
Toni Holness
Marilyn Le Lodico
Yajuan Lu
Michael P. Pest
Jennifer Rosa Perez
Jeffery "Jay" Young, Jr.

2011 Deborah O. Babalola
Romil Devang Amin
Jing Geng
Obi Ikeme
Martin Enrique Klein
Rodlena I. Sales
David N. Schley
Sheila Vennel O'Rourke
Vestonia M. Viddy
Neha Yadav Chiaramonte
Ashley N. Young

2012 Steven Budd
Daniel C. Conlon
Berneta Hayes
Olivette Joseph
Olanrewaju "Lanre" O. Kukoyi
Kendahl Lester
Yvelisse Pelotte
Paul Remy
Bryce Robertson
Alyce Thompson

2013 Melaniesha Abernathy
Chukwudi Erechukwu
Jennifer Kye
Paulo Martinez
Stephen I. McLendon
Khara Moody
Yvelisse Pelotte
Michelle Santos-Light
Wesley S. Speary

2014 Krystal Aquino
Chukwudi Erechukwu
Mingjie Gan
Casey L. Martinez
Angel Murphy
Cana Noel
Wesley S. Speary
Renu Urvashi Sagreiya
Nailah W. Williams

2015 Alonso Arguedas
James Baker
Addie K. Brice
Redeate Dessalegn
Ashley Harris
M. Zane Johnson
Christopher Nock
Cana Noel
Krystin Paul
Lanique Roberts

2016 Shahirah Brown
Hermoinne Cadet
Peter Claasen
Elizabeth Dennis
Taylor Haga
Rondell Jordan
Ariel N. Oliver
Zoe Reyes
Burak Serbetci
Liam Thomas
Chandra E. Ulinfin

2017 Lauren (Wilmer) Atkinson
Chantel Briggs
John Sebree Harris
Emma Jobinpicard
Marissa LaWall
Jessyca (Byssainthe) McCarl
Supriya Phillips
Deokhee Ryu
Liam Thomas
Chandra E. Ulinfin
Elizabeth Wolfe

2018 Giovanna Brackbill
Glory Brown
Daniel Cortes
Queenette Echefu
Sara Planthaber
Supriya Phillips
Alexandra Robinson
John Ukenye
Juliana Vergara
Cykhira N. Walton

2019 Shalisa J. Brunson
Amy Chin-Arroyo
Abraham N. Doe
Marcus Gaines
Sierra Lyles
Juliana Muhaj
Gabriella D. Reber
Alexandra J. Robinson
Jason Sullivan-Halpern
Santana K. Velez

2020 Kendra Barr
Sharai Bryan
Zane Gates
Bingran Li
Jessica Maharaj
Juliana Muhaj
Ashley Reyes
Jason Sullivan-Halpern
Gabrielle Tock
Iman Woodyard

2021 Nicole Bennett
Sharai Bryan
MaLisa "Lisa" Dang
Gobrielle Francis
Kayla Gonzalez
Brittany Griffin
Madelyn Snyder
Gabrielle Tock
Cooper Townsend
Octavia Williams

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Over the past 30 years, 402 MLK, Jr. interns have graced the halls of our PLAN program offices across the state, in order to gain practical lawyering experience and to assist in providing access to justice for those who need it the most. Join us as we catch up with some of our past interns as they reminisce about their experiences and learn more about how their internships impacted their careers today.

SHARON LÓPEZ, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Central Pennsylvania
Legal Services

Law School:
Widener University
Commonwealth Law
School, Class of 1993



CLASS OF 1992

NOW

Partner,
Triqueta Law

Sharon was the first
MLK, Jr. intern hired by
PLAN & the first Latina
Pennsylvania Bar
Association President!

The fondest memory of my internship experience was developing friendships with the lawyers and paralegals in the program like Michael Goldberg, Jim Kearney, Paul Sternberg, Geisha Cruz, Susan Danforth.

During my time as an MLK, Jr. Intern, I learned that advocacy was what I was meant to do. Previously, I thought I wanted to work in public policy development to make big changes for poor people and victims of discrimination and abuse. After I started at Central Pennsylvania Legal Services (now known as PLAN), I knew within a week that my calling was to work as an advocate.

This internship program is why I understand the value of pro bono work. It is why I understand the value of legal services work. I understand the struggles of poor people, that it is more likely systemic than personal. That understanding helps me to have more understanding to advocate for change on the political level with other organizations and lawyers.

My message for future MLK, Jr. Interns is to listen to your clients tell their stories of their lives. It is easy to say we would not make the same choices if we were in that position, but the choices are limited and challenging. Poor people do not get many breaks and ironically people with means get more forgiveness and opportunities than poor people. Consider what you can do to change the system that keeps them locked in their situation and form alliances with public interest advocates to make changes.

MAUREEN OLIVES, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
North Penn Legal Services

Law School:
University of Buffalo School
of Law, Class of 1994



NOW

Managing Attorney,
Philadelphia Legal
Assistance

CLASS OF 1993

The fondest memory of my internship experience was meeting Anita Santos! Us interns had a group learning opportunity – I think we were going to role play the representation of an unemployment compensation client. Anita was our group coach. She has now been my colleague and friend for many years. I learned from her then, and now I learn from her everyday – and am truly privileged to be part of her leadership team.

My MLK, Jr. Internship provided a paid internship, which was like finding a needle in a haystack. I didn't have any ability to fund an internship through work study or other means and couldn't go without any pay for the summer. The internship also introduced me to the REALITY of working with vulnerable populations, not some silly misguided fantasy that I think I was carrying around at that time. I still remember one of the first people I met doing an intake. I had so much to learn about compassion, humility, privilege, poverty, about race, class, power, systems. My MLK, Jr. Internship was really a huge part of starting that journey – one that continues to this day. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity and to be part of this community.

SCHAUN HENRY, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Legal Services, Inc.

Law School:
Penn State Dickinson Law
School, Class of 1997



NOW

Member, Labor and
Employment Group,
McNees, Willace & Nurick, LLC

CLASS OF 1996

During my time as an MLK, Jr. Intern, I assisted women to obtain Protection From Abuse Orders which was very rewarding. The MLK, Jr. Internship Program is an experience that contributed greatly to my growth as an attorney. Trials are less daunting when it's the first real work that you've ever experienced. PLAN, you do a lot of great work that helps people. Please know that people appreciate you and all that you do.

DR. OLUSEYI "SEYI" OLUBADEWO PAGE

THEN

Host Program:
Lehigh Valley Legal Services

Law School:
Villanova University
Charles Widger School of Law,
Class of 2004



NOW

Clinical Psychologist,
Sterling Medical/United
States Coast Guard

CLASS OF 1999

My participation in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program influenced me by teaching me how to search for information and how to engage with government organizations and private entities to get the information I need to advocate for clients. I learned that the information you need is out there, you just have to find it. I've used this seminal lesson in all my career pursuits since then, from being a transactional attorney to conflict resolution fellow to business owner to college professor to forensic/clinical psychologist. This has impacted my life overall in that I don't see any goal or desire as out of reach, because the information is out there somewhere, and I am well versed in advocating for myself or others to get it and get things done.

DONNA BULLOCK, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Community
Legal Services

Law School:
Temple University James
Beasley School of Law,
Class of 2003



NOW

Pennsylvania
State Representative,
195th District

CLASS OF 2001

Fun Fact! Donna and
her husband, Otis, met
during their MLK, Jr.
Internships.

During my time as an intern at Community Legal Services. I gained a working knowledge of the public interest sector in Philadelphia. Interns had a brown bag lunch series every Friday with the Philadelphia Bar Association and all the different public interest agencies in the city. These series were very informative and gave me a thorough introduction to the landscape and the many ways a public interest career may take shape. My participation in the MLK, Jr. Program formed my interest in influencing policy. Community Legal Services has a strong commitment to going beyond individual cases, to looking at how as lawyers we can make systemic change that benefits the public at large. I found that fascinating and it encouraged me to look at how lawyers working in government inform and draft legislation and policy.

TERESA RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Justice At Work (formerly
Friends of Farmworkers)

Law School:
Temple University James
Beasley School of Law, Class
of 2004



NOW

Hearing Officer,
Pennsylvania Judiciary,
Philadelphia Municipal Court

CLASS OF 2002 & 2003

During my time as an MLK, Jr. Intern, Rhodia Thomas and Cynthia Newcomer were my liaisons with the MLK program and, ultimately, we became very dear friends. Although I didn't necessarily love going to Harrisburg for the orientation training, I loved coming back as a presenter for the employment law meetings. The camaraderie with other interns and leadership from participating legal services was invaluable in shaping me as a professional and advocate. My message for future MLK, Jr. Interns is to enjoy this time and serve your clients with respect and with the utmost preparation. Learn as much about the law as you do about compassion. It will be a pivotal time to hone your legal skills while serving those that need our assistance the most.

SHALEETA WASHINGTON, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
MidPenn Legal Services

Law School:
Penn State Dickinson Law
School, Class of 2005



NOW

Counsel,
Highmark, Inc.

CLASS OF 2003

I have so many fond memories from my experience at MidPenn (MPLS), but I really enjoyed engaging with the clients, and doing my best to assist with their needs. During my time at MPLS, I gained more experience and valuable skills in those ten weeks than I probably did in all three years of law school – from learning how to draft and file complaints and other legal pleadings, to negotiations, and just generally learning about areas of the law that really affect people on a day-to-day basis. My participation in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program has made me appreciate the work of PLAN staff and the importance of helping others in need as much as possible, something I continue to do by being active in the community and providing pro bono services. Thank you PLAN for all that you do for the community and for providing me with the opportunity to learn so much during my internship. I truly value the time I spent at MPLS and wouldn't have traded my experience there for anything. In fact, I continued working at MPLS beyond the MLK, Jr. Internship program, as I interned there throughout the academic year.

DIONNE WIGGINS, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Law School:
Widener University
Commonwealth Law School,
Class of 2006



NOW

Vice President of People &
Culture,
American Jewish World
Services

CLASS OF 2004

This MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program influenced my personal and professional life in many ways. Having the opportunity to contribute to Dr. King's legacy of fighting for humanitarian rights by participating in this program was an absolute honor. The pursuit of life, liberty, happiness, and justice are at the forefront of everything that I do for myself, my family, and for those who I encounter in my work. As a mother, I am an advocate for my children and everything that I do is to ensure that they are equipped with the tools necessary to be safe, successful, and to make their own positive impact in this world.

My message to PLAN is to keep doing impactful work and giving law students the opportunity to pick up the torch and carry the work forward. No matter what career you land in, the MLK, Jr. Internship Program helps to shape paths for everyone who participates. I'm grateful for Cynthia Newcomer, Samuel Milkes, Esq. and my friend and fellow law school alum, Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq. for ensuring that this program not only continues, but that it flourishes. I am extremely proud to be an MLK, Jr. Alum!

AUTUMN JOHNSON, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Neighborhood Legal Services

Law School:
Widener University
Commonwealth Law School,
Class of 2007



NOW

First Assistant Public Defender,
Mercer County Public
Defender Office

CLASS OF 2005

I gained invaluable court experience as a certified legal intern during my time as an MLK, Jr. Intern. My experience at PLAN solidified my desire to serve the low-income population in my community, something that I continue to do in the Public Defender's Office and by volunteering my time with non-profit community organizations. PLAN staff were supportive during my law school years and long after. PLAN helped make my career.

BERNARDO CARBAJAL, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
North Penn Legal Services

Law School:
Penn State Dickinson Law
School, Class of 2008



NOW

Attorney,
Bernardo Carbajal Law
Firm, P.L.L.C.

CLASS OF 2007

My fondest memory of my internship experience was learning from experienced attorneys and connecting with other MLK, Jr. Interns. I currently represent clients who are similarly situated as those served by PLAN. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this unique program.

TRUNIECE WHITE, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
MidPenn Legal Services

Law School:
Widener University School
of Law, Class of 2009



NOW

Senior Law Clerk,
Forfeiture Support
Associates

CLASS OF 2008

The fondest memory of my internship experience was working with Steve Krone. It seemed like everybody knew him and he knew everybody. He was like an avenger for the poor. It was amazing. I truly enjoyed the legal experience I gained as an MLK, Jr. Intern. I can't even express how invaluable being in a courtroom and participating in trials during my internship helped me once I graduated from law school. I always wanted to use my law license to help people.

The MLK, Jr. Internship Program allowed me to see the various ways that I could help clients outside of the courtroom. Thank you PLAN for the opportunity and for the exposure to courts and legal issues that I could have never fathomed.

ABRAHAM CEPEDA, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Community Justice Project

Law School:
Widener University
Commonwealth School of
Law, Class of 2011



NOW

Managing Attorney,
Cultura Law, LLC

CEO/Owner,
Abe's Abstract, LLC
Zade Abstract, LLC

CLASS OF 2009 & 2010

My fondest memory of my internship experience was Larry Norton pretending to fire me and an intern for stopping for Icees on our walk back to the office. My participation in the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program totally changed my legal plans. It is why I became an immigration attorney. Thank you PLAN for all that you do. You influenced my life in more ways than you will ever know. Special thanks to Cynthia, Larry, and Benita!

HUGHENS DOLISCA, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Neighborhood Legal Services

Law School:
University of Pittsburgh
School of Law, Class of 2012



NOW

Counsel, Division of
Enforcement,
United States Securities and
Exchange Commission

CLASS OF 2010

The MLK, Jr. Internship Program is a wonderful program. It was my first legal internship, and I did not know what to expect. I was placed at Neighborhood Legal Services in Pittsburgh. During my time as an intern, I worked with several other 1L and 2L law students. Together, we represented individuals in landlord tenant disputes. We formed a bond that summer and became great friends most of whom I remain in contact with twelve years later. I did not spend my summer simply drafting memos but represented individuals and made a real difference. I also gained an understanding of what it meant to be an attorney. To be really thoughtful about how I approach work with clients. I also learned to put my pencil and note pad down for a moment and just listen to clients to understand their situation and really consider how could I help them with their issues. This understanding remains with me today. I am truly grateful to have been chosen to be part of this program.

RODLENA SALES, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Neighborhood Legal Services

Law School:
North Carolina Central
University, Class of 2012



NOW

Public Interest Program
Manager,
Philadelphia Bar Association

CLASS OF 2011

My first landlord tenant hearing was my fondest memory of my internship experience. Going into the hearing, I knew it was unlikely that my client would have a successful result. Ultimately, the landlord received possession of the apartment. However, despite the negative outcome, my client looked at me during the hearing and stated, "I am sure glad you were here with me today. Boy, we really shocked the landlord and the judge. Thanks for being here." It was at that moment I realized being a lawyer is more than the successes but also about giving a voice to those who may not have one without an attorney. My participation in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program influenced my choice to dedicate my legal professional career to the public. Prior to my internship, I was uncertain about a public interest legal career. However, after that summer, I knew that the public interest field was the right professional path for me. Choosing a professional career to serve others is a path of greatness. I know serving others isn't often considered very lucrative. But after eight years as a public interest attorney, the legal experience you develop and the people you help makes this path priceless. Thank you PLAN for choosing my application eleven years ago. I am especially grateful to Cynthia Newcomer who selected me as an intern in 2011 and as an MLK, Jr. Fellow in 2014. My experiences in both programs have been very instrumental in molding me into the public interest attorney that I am today.

WESLEY SPEARY, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Regional Housing
Legal Services

Law School:
University of
Pittsburgh School of
Law, Class of 2015



NOW

Assistant Solicitor,
Allegheny County
Health Department

CLASS OF 2013 & 2014

My participation in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program laid the foundation for my future work. While I am not perfect, I strive to uphold the principles of equity and equality espoused by Dr. King and PLAN. I want to thank everyone at PLAN for their support and for the great opportunity.

MINGJIE GAN, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Pennsylvania Utility Law
Project

Law School:
Penn State Dickinson Law
School, Class of 2016



NOW

Deputy Judicial Clerk,
Commonwealth Court of
Pennsylvania

CLASS OF 2014

My participation in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program provided me with a good understanding of administrative law and proceedings, which I now practice at the Commonwealth Court. During my time as an MLK, Jr. Intern, I worked at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP). I enjoyed traveling with PULP staff attorneys to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to negotiate with utility companies for their rate change on behalf of low-income consumers. Utility law is now my favorite area. My law review article was influenced by my work at PULP. The topic was municipal utilities, a research topic I started when working with PULP and continued to work on throughout my law school years. Thank you PLAN for giving me such a tremendous experience. PLAN is doing very important work and bringing life impacts to thousands of people across the Commonwealth.

M. ZANE JOHNSON, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Legal Aid of Southeastern
Pennsylvania

Law School:
Temple University James
Beasley School of Law,
Class of 2016



NOW

Managing Attorney,
MZA Legal

CLASS OF 2015

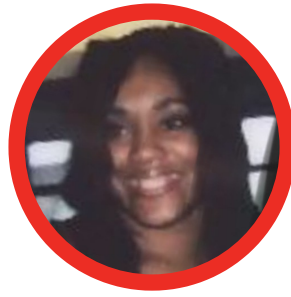
The MLK, Jr. Internship Program showed me just how wide the access to justice gap is for impoverished communities. During my time as an intern, I learned what a multifaceted role lawyers can play in bridging the gap. When it comes to community lawyering, one must be a true problem solver. Knowing the law is paramount, but sometimes people need help that extends beyond the scope of a lawyer's expertise. Even though it is not in the job description, a community lawyer makes it their responsibility to shepherd people closer to a solution. Thank you PLAN for the opportunity, and for continuing to offer it to law students who look like me.

CHANDRA ULINFUN, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Pennsylvania Health
Law Project
Regional Housing
Legal Services

Law School:
Suffolk University Law
School, Class of 2018



NOW

Attorney,
American Tower
Corporation

CLASS OF 2016 & 2017

My fondest memory from my internship experience was attending a healthcare conference. I learned about the medical services offered through Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance Program. This is a fond memory for me because I had the opportunity to discuss with and learn from members of the public about services. Participating in the Internship influenced my current work because I learned the importance of empathy. My internships taught me to listen to my clients, understand their situation, and attempt to resolve each problem to the best of my ability. The internship provided me with opportunities to learn new subject areas, such as utilities, and develop skills that I can use in both professional and personal settings. More so, I have met so many great people while working with the program. To each of the programs I interned with, thank you so much for all the opportunities.

JOHN HARRIS, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Legal Aid of Southeastern
Pennsylvania

Law School:
Widener University
Commonwealth Law School,
Class of 2018



NOW

Owner and Managing
Partner,
Read Legal Law Firm

CLASS OF 2017

My fondest memory of my internship experience occurred at my first referee hearing. I said, "Objection, Your Honor," and felt like a real attorney. At that moment, opposing counsel shot a smirk back at me. I remember talking about that moment for a week. This was my first-time litigating, so I will never forget that moment. I still recall the feedback I received from my supervisor and still apply it to the present day. My participation in the internship program helped me to gain a greater sense of awareness on how impactful that I could be within the legal profession. I am a voice for communities that were rarely heard and often ignored. At my firm, I am not as rigid with my legal service price list because any assistance that can I provide goes a long way. Thank you PLAN for the opportunity to participate in the MLK, Jr. Internship Program. The experience and connections I've made are priceless. I still reach out to the contacts I made at PLAN for assistance on legal matters.

DANIEL CORTES, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Community Justice Project

Law School:
Florida International
University, Class of 2019



NOW

Immigration Attorney,
Community Justice Project

CLASS OF 2018

One of my most vivid memories as an MLK, Jr. Intern I remember was helping a client file for a Protection From Abuse Order in court and getting her through the process. My participation in the program not only gave me the opportunity to experience the work of non-profit attorneys but an appreciation of working with the immigrant community. I learned a lot about the complexities of immigration petitions and received significant client experience. PLAN is a great organization, and I am so thankful for the knowledge and support given to me by PLAN.

ALEXANDRA ROBINSON, ESQ.

THEN

Host Program:
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Community Legal Services

Law School:
Temple University James
Beasley School of Law,
Class of 2020



NOW

Independence Foundation
Public Interest Law
Fellow/Staff Attorney,
Legal Clinic for the Disabled

CLASS OF 2018 & 2019

I participated in the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program twice. My fondest memory of my experience occurred during my first summer at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project. At the start of my internship, I conducted intake interviews of medically fragile twin sisters. Their Managed Care Organization (MCO) drastically cut their home health care hours. I represented the sisters in their grievances against their MCO. Within a few hours of the grievances, I was notified that the MCO reversed its decision. It was my first opportunity to handle a case from start to finish and my first major win. My participation in the MLK, Jr. Program strengthened my passion for public interest work. Thank you PLAN for building the foundation of my legal career. Thank you for giving me two opportunities to serve our community.

GABRIELLE TOCK, JD

THEN

Host Program:
Community Justice Project
MidPenn Legal Services

Law School:
Penn State Law,
Class of 2022



NOW

Law Clerk,
North Penn Legal Services

CLASS OF 2020 & 2021

I have had the privilege to work with four PLAN programs. At MidPenn Legal Services, I was especially happy to be a part of a team that was committed to my personal and professional growth. My MLK, Jr. internships (I completed two) helped me build a resume that attracted staff attorney job offers in three states. Ultimately, I accepted a staff attorney position with North Penn Legal Services, which I will assume full-time in August 2022. To my mentors and friends throughout the network: your work and professional guidance has been invaluable to my own career and more importantly to the communities you support. I am proud to continue my legal aid journey as part of the PLAN fold.

SHARAI BRYAN, JD

THEN

Host Program:
Community Legal Services
Pennsylvania Health Law Project

Law School:
Penn State Law, Class of
2022



NOW

Judicial Clerk,
Prince George's County Circuit
Court, 7th Judicial Circuit

CLASS OF 2020 & 2021

My first MLK, Jr. Internship reminded me of why I wanted to become an attorney: to provide marginalized families access to equitable justice and advance anti-poverty legal initiatives in disenfranchised communities. It was an invaluable experience to intern at two legal aid organizations where I received experiential knowledge and strength-based mentorship. Through both of my internship experiences, I gained the confidence to become a public interest attorney, and I have a clearer vision of how I will be a change agent that makes a tangible impact in public interest law to provide children and families access to justice. My MLK, Jr. internship allowed me to meet and be mentored by Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith! As a Black Caribbean-American Woman, meeting Arlene, who is a Black Caribbean-American Woman, was an answer to my prayer. I had not met a black female attorney before meeting Arlene and her words of wisdom and encouragement have been invaluable.

THANK YOU

The success of the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program is due, in part, to our volunteer trainers. Over the years, many PLAN attorneys, advocates, and community partners have imparted their wisdom to our interns and laid the foundation for future social justice-driven work. On behalf of PLAN, Inc. Board and staff, we thank you for your commitment to our internship program.

Peter Alexander
Alfred Azen
Arlene Balka
Diana Baquero
Edith Benson
Giovanna Brackbill
Louise Brookins
Gloria Browne
Tighe Burns
Patrick Cicero
Jillian Copeland
Ryan Cummins
Cynthia Witman Daley
Karen Detamore
Pam Fleck
Ashley Gabrielle
David Gates
Harry Geller
Julie George
Thelma Grady
Jamie Gullen
Sipi Gupta
Gonzella Hales
Lauren Hartley
Arthur Haywood
Hon. Vincent Hughes
Carolyn Johnson
Debi Johnson
Orient Johnson, Jr.
Judy Jones
Margaret Jones
Stephen Krone
Max Laun
Yvette Long
Angus Love
Otto Lukert
Marielle Macher
Peter Macky
Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith
Elizabeth Marx
Nick Matash

Rochelle McCain
William McLaughlin
Benita Mejia
Samuel Milkes
Linda Morris
Kadeem Morris
Jane Muller-Peterson
Cynthia Newcomer
Colleen Normile
Larry Norton
Jane Nylund
Ria Pereira
Rachel Pinsker
Joline Price
Robert Racunas
Matthew Rich
Rep. David P. Richardson
Teresa Rodriguez
Phil Rosenthal
Louis Rulli
Anita Santos-Singh
Mark Schwartz
William Shuey
Peg Simok
Julia Simon-Mishel
John Sweet
Michelle Terry
Rhodia Thomas
Hon. John J. Thomas
Edward Van Stevenson
Karen Vaughn
Shana Walter
Linda Ware-Johnson
Ernestine Watlington
Laurie Wiest
Marcus Williams
Lisa Williams
Harry Witte
Su Ming Yeh
Peter Zurflied

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Since its inception, these three women of color have overseen and successfully grown PLAN's MLK, Jr. Programming into nationally recognized and respected internship and fellowship programs. Please join us as we recognize these women for their tireless commitment to increasing diversity within the PLAN network.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, PLAN, Inc.
Steward of MLK, Jr. Programming:
December 2014 to Present



It has truly been a great honor of mine to oversee PLAN's MLK, Jr. Program. As a former MLK, Jr. Intern myself, Class of 2005, I have unique perspective on the internship experience and strong investment in the success of our program. I enjoy mentoring the interns and watching them grow in the legal profession. It is truly my most favorite part of my job.

Rhodia Thomas, Esq.
Executive Director, MidPenn Legal Services
Steward of MLK, Jr. Programming:
May 2002–September 2003

My greatest joy which is also my fondest memory of the MLK, Jr. Program was recruiting and then getting to know all the dynamic young law students who worked at the programs each summer. Although it has been more than 20 years since I held the position of Chief Administrative Officer at PLAN, I still remember many of the interns (who are now attorneys) and often hear from them from time to time, in particular about how things are going with their legal careers.



One of my heroes is Constance Baker Motley who, in 1966, was appointed by then President Johnson to a seat on the Federal Court. Judge Motley was the first black woman appointed to the federal bench in the nation's history. In her own words, Judge Motley wrote, "When I was about fifteen, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. No one thought it was a good idea, and I received no encouragement... however I was the kind of person who would not be put down."

My message to past and future interns as you pursue your legal careers is to remember the words of Judge Motley and never become discouraged and to be the "kind of person who will not be put down."

Cynthia G. Newcomer
Former Chief Administrative Officer, PLAN, Inc.
Steward of MLK, Jr. Programming:
January 2004–October 2014



I recall meeting and selecting the first MLK, Jr. Fellow, Sharele Tucker Hatfield, to work for MidPenn Legal Services. During my time as the program administrator, I interviewed and placed hundreds of law students and graduates, all of whom gave me such a deep sense of pride and hope for the future. The fact that PLAN, Inc. recently hired a Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging speaks volumes on the positive impact of the MLK, Jr. Programming.

We also want to recognize Samuel W. Milkes, PLAN, Inc. Executive Director Emeritus, for his unwavering commitment and support of PLAN's MLK, Jr. Programming during his time in leadership and now.

Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.
Executive Director Emeritus, PLAN, Inc.
May 2001–March 2020

The MLK, Jr. Internship Program was intended to better reflect the look of attorneys in legal aid programs, as compared to the range of clients represented by these attorneys. I am convinced that without this program, PLAN programs would have not been as successful at hiring the diverse staff that they have now. During my involvement with the program, my fondest memory goes back 30 years, to hiring PLAN's first intern, Sharon López. Witnessing her great successes and commitment to public interest over the years, including being elected as President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, has been very impactful.



The program overall has been a great success, resulting in many interns and fellows being hired, with many of them staying on for careers in public interest law. But there is still more to do. Today's world offers a highly competitive market and legal aid programs need to continue to look to ways of diversifying staff. I'm proud to have been part of the internship from its inception and while Executive Director of PLAN, to have been part of the oversight and success of the program, including the decision 20 years ago to expand from a summer internship program to also include the fellowship program, placing attorneys at PLAN programs.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our successful MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program. Initiated in 1991 by the Pennsylvania Legal Services Black Caucus, this program is designed to promote and support minority attorneys' work in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network programs across the Commonwealth. To date, PLAN has hosted a total of 392 law students.

The goal of our internship program is to instill in future attorneys a lifelong commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay, and to promote diversity within PLAN's programs. Ten paid internships are awarded each summer to law students who participate in legal services work over a 10-week period. Our interns engage in a variety of situations through which they can better understand the special legal issues faced by those who live in poverty and low-income communities. In turn, they provide valuable services to PLAN clients.

This summer, PLAN welcomed 10 new interns into our network. Our interns worked both in-person and remotely for PLAN programs across the Commonwealth for a 10-week period. After a two-year hiatus from in-person trainings, PLAN, Inc. hosted a two-day in-person poverty law orientation for MLK, Jr. Interns at its Harrisburg office. IOLTA Fellows and an Equal Justice Works Fellow also joined. The training was well received, and everyone very much appreciated returning to in-person training.

At the conclusion of each internship program cycle, our interns are required to complete an essay sharing their summer experiences, which is compiled into a booklet called the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program Drum Major Essay Collection. Booklets are distributed at our annual recognition reception and made available on the PLAN website. To read this year's essay collection, visit our website: www.palegalaid.net.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CLASS OF 2022 SUMMER INTERNS



Top Row, Left to Right: Salem Amare, William & Mary Law School; Jamelia Graham, Penn State Dickinson Law School; Amira El Sawi, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Abraham Lamptey, Penn State Dickinson Law School; Nneoma T. Ibe, Widener Commonwealth Law School.

Bottom Row, Left to Right: Avery Covington, Widener Commonwealth Law School; Iman Koney, Widener Commonwealth Law School; Mylon Medley, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law; Cooper Townsend, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law; Moises Tonoc Bonilla, University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

This year marks the 17th anniversary of our MLK, 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, Inc. law students, clients, and programs, the goal to enhance cultural and ethnic diversity within PLAN programs was not fully realized. In response, PLAN, Inc. created the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program.

In partnership with a sponsoring PLAN regional or specialty program, law school graduates and new-to-practice attorneys are hired for two-year fellowships. Our Fellowship Program is intended to support and promote new lawyers who are interested in long-term public interest careers. MLK, Jr. Fellows are assigned mentors and supervised by experienced attorneys. Salary and benefits are determined by the host program. In addition, MLK, Jr. Fellows are eligible for up to \$11,000 of loan repayment assistance during the two-year fellowship period.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FELLOWS CONTINUE TO SHINE

In our previous newsletter, we introduced you to MLK, Jr. Fellows Amy Chin-Arroyo, Richardo Brown-Whitt, Devyne Byrd, and Dominique Wiggins. Each is about to begin year two of their respective fellowships. Let's read about what they are up to now!

Amy Chin-Arroyo, Esq.



Amy, former MLK, Jr. Intern, Class of 2019, received her JD in May 2021 from Temple University Beasley School of Law and graduated with a B.A. in English and Spanish, International Studies Concentration from Williams College. Her work at Justice at Work involves providing high quality direct legal assistance, community education, and advocacy on behalf of eligible clients with a focus on handling cases involving employment-related issues, immigration matters, landlord-tenant matters, and consumer protection matters.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: Amy, you now have one year of experience as a practicing attorney. Please share with our readers your most memorable case to date.

Amy Chin-Arroyo: I recently submitted a T visa application (a visa application for victims of severe trafficking) for a client who experienced labor trafficking and sexual harassment at the hands of a repeat trafficker in the agricultural industry in Pennsylvania. This client's resilience in overcoming the trauma of the trafficking she experienced while also raising her young son was very inspiring to me.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What impact do you believe the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program has made on you? PLAN?

Amy Chin-Arroyo: The fellowship program has been a wonderful source of support to me thus far as a new attorney at Justice at Work. The funding and loan repayment assistance program has made it financially feasible for me to pursue a career in public interest law. As the first attorney in my family and one of relatively few Asians working in public interest law, it has been lovely and inspiring to meet and learn from other BIPOC attorneys who are participating in the fellowship, as well as through PLAN's Asian Pacific American Affinity Group. I feel very fortunate to have access to such a diverse and supportive professional network.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What message do you have for PLAN and supporters of the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program?

Amy Chin-Arroyo: Thank you for continuing to fund and support PLAN and the MLK, Jr. Programs. Without the MLK, Jr. Internship Program, I would not have done my 2L internship at Justice at Work which led to my current job. The internship program gave me a fantastic introduction to the public interest legal community in Pennsylvania and a chance to meet and learn from peers and public interest attorneys from across the state. Continuing to provide this type of mentorship, funding, and support to diverse law students is essential to diversifying the profession.

Richardo Brown-Whitt, Esq.

Richardo received his JD in May 2021 from Wake Forest University School of Law and graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and English Writing from the University of Pittsburgh.



His work at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project involves litigating cases on behalf of incarcerated and institutionalized individuals, primarily in federal court, on statutory and constitutional civil rights claims. He conducts visits to prisons and institutions to meet with clients and monitor the ongoing conditions of confinement. He also works closely with the PILP legal team and clients to investigate and develop potential cases and develop relationships with community partners.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: Richardo, you now have one year of experience as a practicing attorney. Please share with our readers your most memorable case to date.

Richardo Brown-Whitt: One of the first cases that I worked on was *Remlinger v. Leb. Cnty*, a case involving the shackling of a pregnant woman during labor. This case is ongoing, however it immediately grounded me in the seriousness of the work handled by the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What are your thoughts on your fellowship experience thus far?

Richardo Brown-Whitt: I thoroughly enjoy being an advocate for my clients. Many of our clients face significant hurdles with initiating and maintaining lawsuits. I am honored to work closely with clients who inspire me through their bravery and willingness to come forward and tell their stories.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What message do you have for PLAN and supporters of the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program?

Richardo Brown-Whitt: PLAN has many programs within its network, many of which were unknown to me before applying to this fellowship program. The MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program doesn't just increase the diversity within a particular host program, but it also increases the visibility of all the other PLAN programs.

Devyne Byrd, Esq.



Devyne received her JD in May 2019 from the University of Virginia School of Law and graduated with a B.A. in History from Houston Baptist University. Her work at Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania involves representing clients facing issues regarding public benefits, consumer law and bankruptcy, employment, expungements, housing, family law, protection from domestic violence, and other cases as assigned.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: Devyne, you now have one year of experience as a practicing attorney. Please share with our readers your most memorable case to date.

Devyne Byrd: My most memorable case thus far was a custody case where I procured full physical and legal custody for a mother who had not seen her child in over six months due to the other parent refusing to abide by the unofficial custody agreement they had negotiated. After two hearings, the mother was granted full custody and was reunited with her child. This case was memorable to me because it illustrated the slow moving, often traumatic process of family court. The child was with a parent that had not been actively parenting for over ten years but because there was no official custody agreement, there was no recourse except a hearing that took over six months to schedule.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What are your thoughts on your fellowship experience thus far?

Devyne Byrd: The fellowship has allowed me to learn several different types of law and explore my career under the mentorship of Black women which has been invaluable. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear their guidance and have so many amazing people invested in me.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What message do you have for PLAN and supporters of the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program?

Devyne Byrd: This fellowship is important because it allows the community of lawyers to better reflect the communities we serve, bringing comfort to our clients as well as culturally informed representation and perspectives to our work.



Dominique Wiggins, Esq.

Dominique received her JD in May 2021 from Duquesne University School of Law and graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish from Rider University. Her work at Community Legal Services involves representing clients in both public housing and private landlord-tenant matters.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: Dominique, you now have one year of experience as a practicing attorney. Please share with our readers your most memorable case to date.

Dominique Wiggins: My most memorable case happened during a Lawyer of the Day Shift while under my supervising attorney Kadeem Morris, a former MLK, Jr. Fellow. We reached an agreement with the landlord and landlord's attorney to re-house our client after a lockout. We provided assistance through a rental assistance agency and got our client re-housed in a week. Our client was very happy to return to his home after being locked out.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What are your thoughts on your fellowship experience thus far?

Dominique Wiggins: My fellowship experience has been amazing. I was very fortunate to be placed at Community Legal Services in the Housing Unit. Before starting this fellowship, I did not have a specific area law practice in mind. Since working in CLS's Housing Unit, I have found myself joining and co-leading policy efforts to improve the use of housing records for tenants seeking new housing with prior eviction filings.

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: What impact do you believe the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program has made on you?

Dominique Wiggins: This program expanded the way I see public interest work. Initially, my view was very narrowly focused on specific areas of practice. I have also been impacted by the responses from clients who are able to identify with me culturally. Having clients respond positively to having me as their legal representation is a positive addition to the often-stressful work that I do.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FELLOWSHIP GRADUATE

Shalisa Brunson, Esq.

In 2020, we introduced you to Shalisa Brunson. She will complete her fellowship at Philadelphia Legal Assistance in August 2022. We are happy to share that she will continue her employment as a permanent staff attorney at the program upon the conclusion of her fellowship.



Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith: Congratulations Shalisa on your graduation from the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program! You were a wonderful addition to our program, and we are very excited to know that you will remain a part of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

Shalisa Brunson: I am grateful for the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program because it allowed me to serve in communities that are similar to the one in which I grew up. My fellowship experience reminded me that not everyone is afforded the same opportunities as me and that it is my responsibility to fill in the gaps where people have less knowledge about their rights. I also believe that it is important to increase the visibility of lawyers of color and I am happy to be a part of PLAN's efforts to do so. This program allows fellows to thrive in a way that is crucial to our formative years as lawyers. I received so much hands on experience that I am not sure that I would have gained in another role. I hope this program, and the MLK, Jr. Internship Program, continues for a long time. I also hope there is continued financial support for even more students and fellows to participate in these programs. Thank you PLAN for allowing me to be a part of both programs. I am grateful.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS

We are extremely pleased with the success of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Program. Since its inception in 2004, 29 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 \$5,500 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 over 72,130 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 Pennsylvania IOLTA Board. Our goal is to place at least two 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 behalf of PLAN, Inc., we thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

PLAN, Inc. acknowledges and thanks the following for their generous contributions to the MLK, Jr. Fellowship Program over the years.

Allentown Branch of the NAACP
Ballard Spahr, LLP
Bazelon Less & Feldman, PC
Latoya W. Bellamy
Blank & Rome, LLP
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC
Campbell & Levine, LLC
Carl (Tobey) 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
Eagles Social Justice Fund, Philadelphia Foundation
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
James Grasty
John Giles
Jonathan Hollin
Juan and Delise Williams
Kleinbard, LLC
Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett, PC
Leroy Zimmerman
Martin LLC
Marsha White-Mathis
McEldrew & Fullam, PC
McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC
Merck & Co.
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
PNC Foundation
PNC Charitable Trust
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
The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark
Thomas Jefferson University, Office of University Counsel
Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, LLP
Tucker Law Group, LLC
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Wells Fargo Foundation
White & Williams, LLP
Widener Commonwealth Law
Wolf, Block, Schoor & Solis-Cohen, LLP
Woodcock Washburn, LLP



JAYME CASSIDY, ESQ.

**Incoming Executive
Director**

“

**ON BEHALF OF
PLAN STAFF, BOARD,
AND PROGRAMS,
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED COMMITMENT
TO LEGAL SERVICES.**

”

**ARLENE
MARSHALL-HOCKENSMITH, ESQ.**

**Director of Diversity,
Equity, Inclusion, and
Belonging**



SUPPORT US

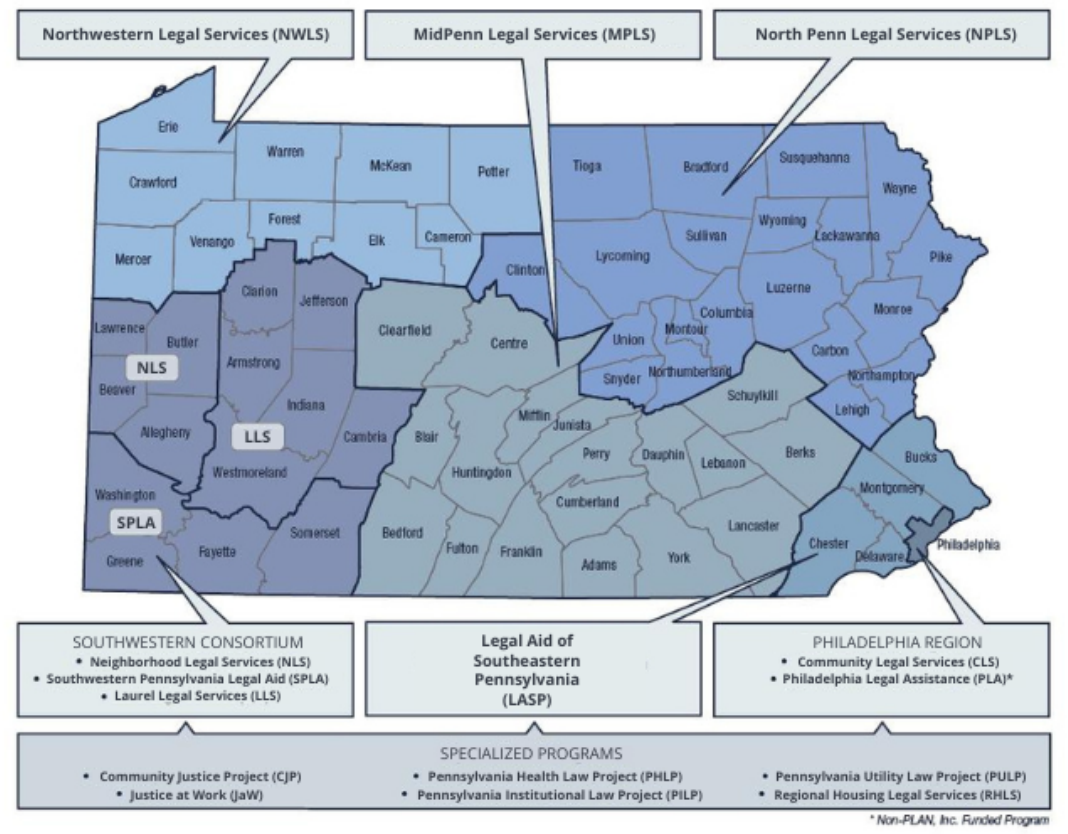
Help us ensure the success of our program for years to come!

Scan the QR code or go to:
bit.ly/PLAN-MLK-DONATE



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.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK



To learn more about our MLK, Jr. Summer Internship and Fellowship Programs or to donate, please visit our website at www.palegalaid.net/internships-fellowships or contact:

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq.
 Director, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
 1-800-322-7572, ext. 216
amarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net

FUNDING FOR THE MLK, JR. PROGRAM IS PROVIDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA IOLTA BOARD, THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRIVATE SPONSORS.