

About Us

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network is a coordinated system of nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal services to Pennsylvanians.

Our mission is to ensure equal access to justice so that Pennsylvanians can have representation when facing important civil legal concerns, affecting their safety, health, shelter, and survival.

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.

To Apply

Applicants should submit their materials electronically to Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq. PLAN, Inc. Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, at amarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net

Application packages must include:

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

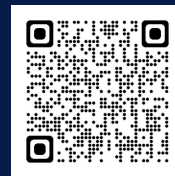
A cover letter, resume, transcript, and three professional references.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A cover letter, resume, transcript, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample.

For more information, visit www.palegalaid.net.

Or scan me to learn more!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship & Fellowship Program



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

**Pennsylvania
Legal Aid** Network

About our Summer Internship Program

Initiated by the Pennsylvania Legal Services Black Caucus in 1991, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship Program was established to promote and support minority attorneys working for programs of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

Each summer, ten paid internships are awarded to law students to participate in legal services work throughout the PLAN Network.

During the ten-week period of employment, law students experience the real world of legal advocacy and participate 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 valuable services to the clients in the offices in which they are placed.

Interns engage with clients directly, participate in court and administrative hearings (for those certified), and conduct legal research and writing on cases under the supervision of experienced legal aid attorneys. As a valued member of staff, interns are encouraged to participate in case strategy and contribute to overall case management. A 1.5 day poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship.

Internships are offered to first or second year law students who are social justice oriented and desire an opportunity to make a difference. Interns receive a stipend of \$7,500 for their service.

Since its founding, the MLK, Jr. Summer Internship Program has provided mentorship to more than 400 law students. The program is an integral part of our Network's commitment to ensuring that all people can access justice regardless of their ability to pay.

About our Fellowship Program

During a 2003 evaluation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship Program, it was found that despite the positive impact of internships on the students and programs, our goal of increasing cultural and ethnic diversity within our Network was not being met.

In response, we created the Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Program in 2004. In partnership with our regional and specialty legal aid programs, law school graduates and new attorneys are hired for two-year fellowships.

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. Employment is not limited to two years.