

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 and three references by January 31, 2010.
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Send a cover letter, resume, three references and a writing sample by December 31, 2009

to

Cynthia G. Newcomer
Chief Administrative Officer
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

For additional information about the summer internship or fellowship program contact
Cynthia Newcomer
Chief Administrative Officer:
1-800-322-7572, ext. 216
cnewcomer@palegalaid.net

Pennsylvania
LegalAid 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
LegalAid Network, Inc.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship & Fellowship Program

2010

*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 Public Welfare**

**An Opportunity to
Make a Difference**

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, over 270 law students have participated in the program.

Summer internships are available throughout the PLAN 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 the PLAN 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 valuable services to clients of PLAN offices in which they are placed.

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.



2009 Summer Interns

Law students experience the real world of legal advocacy. PLAN provides opportunities for MLK Interns to 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. Fourteen hours of poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship. 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.

PLAN awards **10 paid internships** each summer to law students who participate in legal services work over the traditional 10 week summer internship period.

“Organizations like NPLS are a voice for the voiceless, those who otherwise would not be heard and taken advantage of. Living in a country where human rights were fought, bled, and died for, it is disheartening to know that people are still forced to face injustice because they cannot afford representation.”

*Shamika N. Creech
Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law
2009 Intern—North Penn Legal Services*

“I was able to attend several meetings with advocates from around the nation who care about the poor and are constantly lobbying on their behalf for greater access to legal services, for fairer laws and for more funding.”

*Ema L. Iruobe
Villanova University School of Law
2009 Intern—Community Legal Services*

“It is a refreshing experience to represent a client utilizing your legal studies and human compassion as your sole motivation. I have truly enjoyed my opportunity to help the underprivileged with NWLS staff. Thank you NWLS staff for your guidance through this great experience.”

*Brian M. John
Duquesne University School of Law
2009 Intern—Northwestern Legal Services*

“I had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from experienced and knowledgeable attorneys both at the office and at the courthouse. Every step of my learning process, from interviewing to negotiating, was influenced and refined by the staff attorneys at Laurel Legal Services. I greatly appreciate this opportunity and experience.

*Behnam Salehi
Villanova University School of Law
2009 Intern—Laurel Legal Services*



Abraham A. Cepeda

A rising 2L at Widener University School of Law interned at Community Justice Project in Harrisburg. Accompanied at left by Yvette Long, President Emeritus, PLAN, Inc. Board and at right by Samuel Milkes, PLAN, Inc. Executive Director