



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Summer Internship and Fellowship Program

Pennsylvania
LegalAid Network, Inc.

MLK, Jr. Program News

2011 Fall Edition

Meet our 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Recipients and Summer Interns

Meet **Diana Baquero**, a 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship recipient. Diana joined the staff of Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA) on August 22nd. She is a 2011 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA, ranked the #1 public interest law school in the country by *preLaw Magazine* and *The National Jurist*. Diana maintained dean's list status throughout her undergraduate studies at Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ where she obtained a B.S. degree in Economics in 2003. PLA's family law unit was a perfect fit for Diana since she brought almost 5 years of experience advocating for victims of domestic violence in legal aid and domestic violence programs; South Brooklyn Legal Services, Family Law Domestic Violence Unit, Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services, Domestic Violence Team, Chicago, IL and Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project in New York City. In addition, Diana worked as a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Dolores Sloviter, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, and a Legal Intern at Paso Del Notre Civil Rights Project in El Paso, Texas. Diana is fluent in Spanish, and in her spare time enjoys jogging, yoga, dancing and reading.



Donald F. Smith, Esq., Executive Director of Berks County Bar Association, congratulates MLK, Jr.

Fellowship recipient, **Abraham Cepeda**, and welcomes him to the Berks County legal community. Abraham is a 2011 graduate of Widener School of Law in Harrisburg, he received a B.S. degree in Political Science from East Stroudsburg University in 2008. Abraham will begin his legal career at the Community Justice Project (CJP) on September 26th in their Reading office. Abraham's parents are first generation immigrants from the Dominican Republic who reside in the Lehigh Valley area. As a young child Abraham witnessed the many complex hurdles his parents had to navigate due to their immigration status. As a result, he set his sights on a career in



immigration law. According to Larry Norton, the Executive Director of CJP, Abraham's services as an MLK Summer Intern in 2009, proved to be invaluable in several employment law cases in the Reading area. In the summer of 2010 he returned to CJP as an MLK Intern. While his placement was with CJP, he trained and developed immigration law expertise at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in Philadelphia. Abraham will be our network's first immigration law expert and will be available to handle immigration cases for Pennsylvania's network of legal aid programs throughout the Commonwealth. He is fluent in Spanish and an avid football fan.

2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Interns



From left to right: **Sheila Vennell O'Rourke** 3L, Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI, **Romil Devang Amin** 2L, Rutgers University School of Law, Camden NJ, **David N. Schley** 2L, Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, **Jing Geng** 3L, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO, **Deborah O. Babalola** 2L, George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC, **Obi Ikeme** 3L, University of New Hampshire School of Law, Concord, NH, **Rodlena I. Sales** 3L, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC, **Neha Yadav** 3L, Earle Mack School of Law, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, **Vestonia M. Viddy** 3L, Ohio Northern University College of Law, Ada, OH, **Ashley N. Young** 3L, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC, **Martin Enrique Klein** 2L, Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA

Established in 1991 to promote cultural and ethnic diversity in legal services and to honor Dr. King, the MLK Program offers summer internships throughout the PA Legal Aid Network for first and second year law students.

The program was enhanced in 2003 by adding a two-year Fellowship by which minority attorneys, new to practice, are hired by a sponsoring regional or specialty program and receive loan repayment assistance. The program is an integral part of our goal to initiate new lawyers to a commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals who have nowhere else to turn.

For additional information visit the website at www.palegalaid.net/martin-luther-king-jr-program or contact Cynthia Newcomer at 1-800-322-7572, ext. 216, or by email at cnewcomer@palegalaid.net

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