



"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
Legal Aid Network, Inc.

Fall 2016 Newsletter

Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program Update

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our successful summer internship program. The program, which is designed to promote and support minority attorneys' work in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) programs across the Commonwealth, has hosted a total of 341 law students to date. The goal of the program is to initiate future attorneys to the lifelong commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Ten paid internships are awarded each summer to law students who participate in legal services work over a 10 week period. This year, PLAN hosted 11 interns. A one day poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship. At the end of the program, interns are also asked to complete an essay sharing their summer experiences which are compiled into a booklet called the MLK Intern Drum Major Essay Collection. The booklets are distributed at our annual recognition reception and shared on our website. To read this year's essays, click here: <https://www.palegalaid.net/sites/default/files/2016-Drum-Major.pdf>.

Class of 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Interns



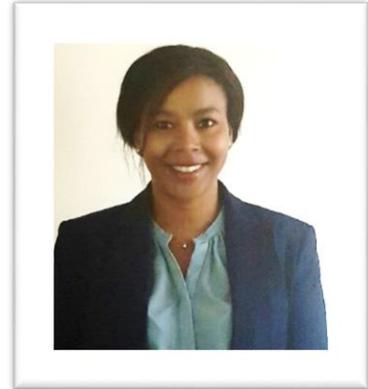
From left to right: **Burak Serbetci** 1L - Rutgers Camden Law School, **Chandra Ulinfun** 1L - Suffolk University School of Law, **Rondell Jordan** 2L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law, **Ariel Oliver** 2L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law, **Peter Claassen** 1L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law, **Liam Thomas** 1L - Temple University Beasley School of Law, **Shahirah Brown** 2L - Widener University, Delaware School of Law, **Zoe Reyes** 2L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law, **Hermionne Cadet** 2L - The Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, and **Elizabeth Dennis** 2L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law (not pictured).

Meet Our Newest Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellow

Congratulations to **Redeate Dessaegn**, our newest 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) fellow. Redeate joined the staff of MidPenn Legal Services-Reading in August. To date, PLAN, Inc.'s MLK Fellowship Program has placed 17 fellows. We currently have fellowship opportunities available at Northwestern Legal Services-Erie and Friends of Farmworkers-Pittsburgh.

About Redeate

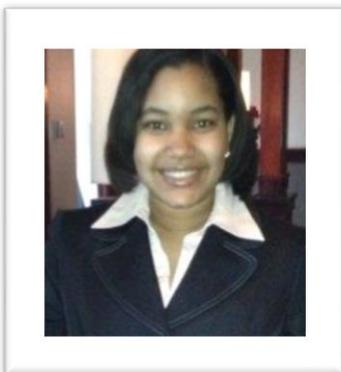
Redeate, MLK Intern Class of 2015, received her JD in May from University of Pittsburgh School of Law and graduated with a BS in Psychology, Political Science and Africana Studies from University of Pittsburgh. Redeate's personal experiences and genuine interest in public service, which are evidenced in her work with multiple Non-Governmental Organizations within the United States and internationally, make her a natural fit for the client population we serve.



2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows Continue to Shine

Last year, we introduced **Caitlin Cocilova** and **Morgan Jenkins**. Both women continue to excel in their roles as staff attorneys and fellows at their respective programs.

Caitlin, employed by Friends of Farmworkers-Pittsburgh (FOF), leads the program's outreach project targeting low-wage immigrant and migrant workers in western and northwestern regions of the state who are in need of legal assistance. Caitlin's fellowship will conclude on September 30, 2016, but she will continue to work in public interest as a staff attorney at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless in D.C. On the behalf of PLAN, Inc. and FOF, we would like to thank Caitlin for her contributions to PLAN and the client community and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.



Morgan, employed by Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA), is a member of the program's veterans project. This special project is designed to assist veterans with matters including housing and benefits. Morgan is also responsible for conducting the project's community outreach and making referrals when deemed necessary.

Saying Goodbye



Almost two years ago, we introduced you to **Yvelisse Pelotte**, our 2014 MLK Program Fellow. Her fellowship will end in early September 2016. During her tenure, she excelled in her position as an employment attorney at Community Legal Services (CLS). PLAN, Inc. and CLS are very appreciative of Yvelisse's work and commitment towards removing employment barriers for the clients we serve. This fall, she will continue her work in public interest at the Education Law Center in Philadelphia. On the behalf of PLAN, Inc. and CLS, we would like to thank Yvelisse

for her contributions to PLAN and the client community and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Fellowship Program Success

We are extremely pleased with the success of the MLK Fellowship Program. Since its inception in 2004, 17 lawyers have been placed as fellows with PLAN legal aid programs and scores of other former interns have entered other public interest careers. The 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 \$5500 each per year of the two year fellowship. Salary is commensurate with that of the sponsoring program.

While a few fellows have moved on from employment at PLAN programs to other public interest or governmental organizations, during fiscal year 2015-16, 7 former MLK Fellows or Interns remained employed at PLAN programs.

In the past fiscal year, PLAN programs handled about 65,000 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 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. Our goal is to place at least 2 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 the behalf of PLAN, Inc., we thank you for your support!

Thank You

PLAN, Inc. wishes to thank and acknowledge the following for their generous support of the MLK Fellowship Program since its inception.

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Honorable Gerald A. McHugh, Jr. and Maureen E. Tate
In Memoriam of Dorothy Ridley-Leftwich
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To learn more about PLAN, Inc.'s MLK Summer Internship and Fellowship Programs or to donate, please visit the PLAN, Inc. website at <http://www.palegalaid.net/martin-luther-king-jr-program> or contact:

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