



"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.

Summer 2017 Newsletter

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program Update

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 352 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/2017-DME-Collection.pdf>.

## Class of 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Interns



**First Row Left to Right:** Deokhee Ryu 2L- Penn State Law, Chantel Briggs 1L-Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Marissa Lawall 2L-Penn State Dickinson School of Law. **Second Row:** Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, PLAN, Inc. Administrative Officer; Lauren Wilmer 2L –Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law; Emma Jobinpicard 2L-Penn State Dickinson School of Law; Supriya Philips 1L- Widener Commonwealth Law School. **Third Row:** Jessyca Byssainthe 2L - University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Elizabeth Wolfe 2L – Duquesne University of Law; Chandra Ulinfun 2L - Suffolk University School of Law; John Harris 2L - Widener Commonwealth Law; and Liam Thomas 2L - Temple University Beasley School of Law.

## Meet Our Newest Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows

Congratulations to our 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Fellowship Recipients Hermionne Cadet and Kadeem Morris. In August, Hermionne and Kadeem will join the staffs of MidPenn Legal Services and the Pennsylvania Utility Project.

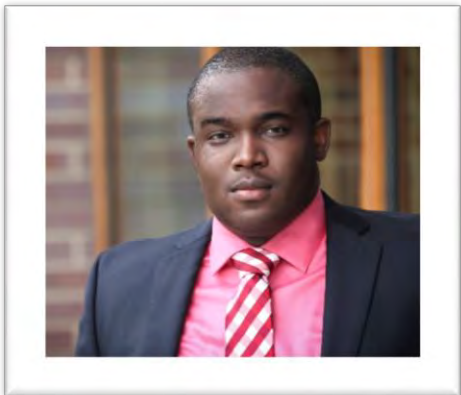
### About Hermionne

**Hermionne**, MLK Intern Class of 2016, received her JD in May from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law and graduated *cum laude* with a BA in Sociology and minor in Social Work and Psychology from East Stroudsburg University. Hermionne's upbringing and genuine interest in public service, as evidenced in her work with the Women's Resource Center of Monroe County, make her a natural fit for the client population we serve.



### About Kadeem

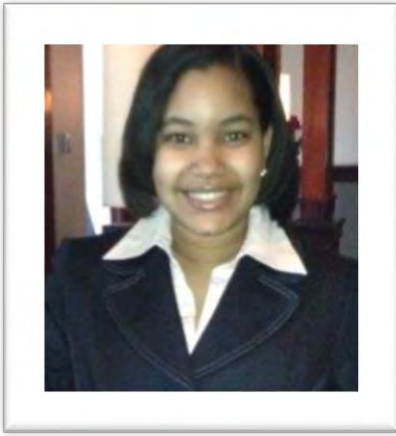
**Kadeem**, a former intern for MidPenn Legal Services and the AIDS Law Project through the IOLTA Summer Fellowship Program, received his JD in May from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law and graduated *cum laude* with a BA in Politics, Economics, and Law from the State University of New York, The College at Old Westbury. Kadeem dedicated his law school career to public interest work and is committed to engaging in legal work geared towards improving the quality of life for low-income and domestic violence victims in Pennsylvania.



## Current Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows Continue to Shine

In November 2016, we hired **Addie Brice**, a member of the MLK Intern Class of 2016. Addie received her J.D. in May 2016 from Widener University Delaware Law School and graduated with a BA from Temple University, Fox Business School. An employee of Northwestern Legal Services, Addie handles various types of cases including domestic violence, unemployment compensation, landlord/tenant, and social security. However, her primary area of practice is family law, specifically custody disputes. Since starting, Addie has participated in numerous Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network training events and most recently joined the PLAN, Inc. Statewide Conference Planning Committee which is designed to guide PLAN, Inc. in the development of our annual statewide conference.





In our previous newsletter, we introduced you to **Morgan (Jenkins) Moody**. Morgan began her fellowship at Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) in November 2015. Morgan's initial work focused on veterans matters including housing and benefits, community outreach, and referrals. However, Morgan now heads NLSA's new domestic violence prevention project. The goal of the project is to establish a system in Allegheny County to reduce the domestic violence victims who do not complete the Protection From Abuse (PFA) process. Situated in an office at the county courthouse, Morgan, speaks to domestic violence victims "before" they attempt to file for a temporary PFA order. Like Addie, Morgan is also very involved in the PLAN community and is a member of the PLAN, Inc. Statewide Conference Planning Committee.

## **Fellowship Program Success**

We are extremely pleased with the success of the MLK Fellowship Program. Since its inception in 2004, 20 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 2016-17, five 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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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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