



"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

2008 Fall Edition

### Meet our 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Recipients and Summer Interns

**Bernardo Carbajal**, a 2008 graduate of Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, will start his public interest law career this fall at MidPenn Legal Services (MPLS) in the Reading office. Bernardo grew up in Garden Grove, California. He received his B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles earning a 3.8 GPA. Prior to moving to Pennsylvania, Bernardo worked several years in the private sector. In 2006, he worked as an IOLTA Summer Intern with the Community Justice Project and in 2007 as an MLK Jr. Intern with North Penn Legal Services in Bethlehem. When Bernardo was notified that he was a recipient of the fellowship, he commented; "I look forward to representing the indigent. My assignment to the Reading office will allow me to work with the type of community I grew up in." Bernardo is also fluent in Spanish.



**Rasheedah Phillips**, a native of Philadelphia, is a 2008 graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law. In May of 2005 she graduated summa cum laude from Temple University with a B.A. degree in criminal justice and a 3.8 GPA. Her Fellowship will be hosted by Community Legal Services (CLS) in Philadelphia in their Family Advocacy Unit, where she also served as an MLK Jr. Summer Intern in 2007. Rasheedah was a featured speaker, with Juan Williams, at the PA Bar Association's Diversity Summit this past summer. Over the past six years she has received numerous academic scholarships, awards and recognitions, but the one she says she cherishes the most, is the one she received the day she graduated from law school: the Henry Kent Anderson Human Services Award. The award is given to a student whose work has demonstrated "a concern for the victims of society's inequities." Rasheedah will begin her fellowship at the end of August and plans to continue her interest in art, theater and creative writing.



**Scott Williams, Esq.** joined the staff at North Penn Legal Services (NPLS) in the Bethlehem office on April 14<sup>th</sup> of this year. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law in 1994 and a BA degree in Spanish and Political Science from Amherst College in 1990. Scott is from Wallingford, PA and is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He started his legal career as a law clerk with the PA Bureau of Workers Compensation in Philadelphia in 1994. Prior to accepting the fellowship, Scott was in private practice and ran his own general practice with offices in Cedarville, NJ and Wallingford, handling criminal defense, traffic, personal injury, workers compensation, child support, and landlord tenant matters. Scott is working primarily on employment law cases at NPLS. He is fluent in Spanish and an avid football fan.



## 2008 Summer Interns



From left to right, **Benjamin H. Haire** (3L), Ohio State University Cleveland Marshall School of Law, **Truniece White** (3L), Widener University School of Law of Delaware, **Sheldon A. Smith** (3L), Howard University School of Law, **Karen Fernandez** (3L), Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, **Ema L. Iruobe** (2L), Villanova University School of Law, **Tedeisha Rowe** (3L), Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, **Cherie N. Long** (3L), North Carolina Central School of Law, **Amanda Franzen** (3L), Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, **Mukta Agrawal** (3L), Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, **Sakeenah S. El-Amin** (3L), Temple University Beasley School of Law and **Alejandro Ventura** (2L) *not pictured*, George Washington University School of Law.

We continue to be impressed with the high quality of students seeking MLK Summer Internships and this year, the 17<sup>th</sup> class was certainly no exception. The class, predominantly rising 3Ls attending Pennsylvania law schools, came from all walks of life representing many states and cultures.

The students arrived at PLAN, Inc. offices early Thursday morning on May 29<sup>th</sup> eager to complete the required 14 hours of poverty law training prior to reporting to their host program the following Monday. Their 10 week internship ended Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> with a Recognition Reception at the Dauphin County Bar Association. The keynote speaker, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pedro A. Cortés, praised the students for their decision to pursue careers in public interest law. Students were presented with certificates of completion and a copy of the Drum Major; a publication containing a collection of essays prepared by the participants in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program, reflecting on their summer working in legal services. To read the essays, please visit our website at [www.palegalaid.net](http://www.palegalaid.net).

### The Martin Luther King, Jr. Program

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 rising second and third year law students. The Program was enhanced in 2003 by adding two-year Fellowships 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.