

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, 2012.
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Send a cover letter, resume, three references and a writing sample by December 31, 2011

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
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1-800-322-7572, ext. 216
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Pennsylvania
LegalAid Network, Inc.

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Pennsylvania
LegalAid Network, Inc.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Internship

&

Fellowship Program

2012

*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**

2011 MLK, Jr. Summer Interns

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 290 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.

Law students experience the real world of legal advocacy. MLK Interns 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. 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. Two days of poverty law training is provided at the beginning of the internship.

10 paid internships are awarded each summer to law students to participate in legal services work over the traditional 10 week summer internship period.

"I am grateful to have had the privilege of working with wonderful attorneys and paralegals at CLS. I am fueled and inspired by their passion for what they do and the relentless effort and determination with which they fight for the rights of their clients. My experience at CLS has strengthened my resolve to continue in the field of public interest and become an advocate for the disadvantaged members of society."

*Obi Ikeme, University of New Hampshire School of Law
2011 Intern — Community Legal Services, Philadelphia*

"Every day, at FoF, it was abundantly clear that the need for committed advocates is far greater than the supply. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have an opportunity and access to a legal education must not forget the countless millions who are deprived of that same opportunity. Those of us who have been trained as advocates must recognize that this profession comes with a heavy responsibility."

*Martin Enrique Klein, Temple University School of Law
2011 Intern — Friends of Farmworkers, Philadelphia*

"I was able to have a great deal of direct client contact while working at PHLP. From my first day on the job, I contacted clients and handled the intake process. After that initial period, I handled cases on my own, with attorney supervision. I know I have an inherent desire to be a leader, a desire I can use to help create the changes that are desperately needed for low-income people in the United States."

*Ashley N. Young, Georgetown University Law Center
2011 Intern — Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Philadelphia*



Vestonia M. Viddy

3L, Ohio Northern University College of Law is accompanied by Gerald A. McHugh, Esq., PLAN, Inc. Board President

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.