

June 2006: Kate Lawrence Named Public Interest and Clinical Teaching Fellow

Kate Cramer Lawrence succeeded Joan Githaiga in the fall of 2005 as the Public Interest Fellow at Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law and was a wonderful contributor to the civil legal aid effort both at the law school and across the state for the past year. But Pennsylvanians who care about the neediest among us are not through with Lawrence even though her fellowship is over since Dickinson just announced that Lawrence will continue to work with the Law School for the next two years in an expanded role as the Public Interest and Clinical Teaching Fellow. In this capacity, she will continue to coordinate the myriad of public interest initiatives available to the law school community at both the University Park and Carlisle buildings, including managing the Miller Center for Public Interest Advocacy pro bono matching program. In addition, Lawrence will serve as a Clinical Teaching Fellow in the Child Advocacy and Family Law Clinics, where she will assist in the ongoing development of the Child Advocacy Clinic and in the supervision of the legal interns.

One of the most important roles Lawrence plays at Dickinson through the Miller Center is fostering the pairing of law students who have agreed to provide pro bono research with lawyers providing pro bono representation, Legal Service attorneys, public defenders, private attorneys appointed by the court to represent indigent defendants, public interest organizations, and pro bono programs that have requested assistance on a case or particular issue. For more information on the Miller Center, see <http://www.dsl.psu.edu/centers/miller.cfm> or contact Lawrence directly at kmc32@psu.edu or (717) 240-5210.

Lawrence gave this update about civil legal aid programming at Dickinson: The Miller Center Pro Bono program is running through the summer with students available to provide research assistance to public interest attorneys and private attorneys with pro bono cases. Student summer interns are working in various legal services offices, the ACLU, Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center and with the Dauphin County Non Profit pro bono program (among other places). Three new clinics (Asylum, Child Advocacy and Inmate Assistance) are successfully up and running and planning is underway on programming for next semester (including fellowship presenters, international human rights panels, and possibly mock public interest interviews). In addition, applications for Dickinson's Loan Reduction Assistance Program are up.