

**Congratulations to the 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Interns**  
*An Opportunity to Make a Difference...*



**Zarinah Akbar** (2L) Widener School of Law (Harrisburg): *Community Justice Project, Harrisburg*  
**Arnold Bituin** (3L) Widener School of Law (Harrisburg): *MidPenn Legal Services, Harrisburg*  
**Tahira M. Bland** (2L) Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Law: *Neighborhood Legal Services Assoc., Pittsburgh*  
**Tighe Burns** (2L) Temple Univ. Beasley School of Law: *Philadelphia Legal Assistance Ctr., Philadelphia*  
**Kristyan Rose Gilmore** (2L) Howard Univ. School of Law: *North Penn Legal Services, Bethlehem*  
**Sipi Shubhra Gupta** (2L) Temple Univ. Beasley School of Law: *Community Legal Services, Philadelphia*  
**Alma Magaña** (2L) PSU Dickinson School of Law: *Friends of Farmworkers, Philadelphia*  
**Christina M. Matthewson** (2L) Rutgers Univ. School of Law (Camden): *Legal Aid of Southeast PA, Norristown*  
**Jeffrey T. Johnson** (1L) PSU Dickinson School Law: *Northwestern Legal Services, Erie*  
**Jesse A. Rodriguez** (2L) PSU Dickinson School Law: *PA Utility Law Project, Harrisburg*

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**PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK**  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**Summer Internship and Fellowship Program**

*A Program Established to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
in the Pursuit of Equal Justice For All*

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) is the principal funding and oversight agency for organizations that provide legal assistance to low income residents of Pennsylvania.

**Martin Luther King Jr., (MLK) Summer Internships** are available at Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network during the summer months for law students who are social justice oriented and desire an opportunity to make a difference.

The MLK Internship is an integral part of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network goal to initiate new lawyers to the lifelong commitment of providing access to justice for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Students engage in unique situations through which one might better understand the special legal issues facing individuals who live in poverty and low-income communities. In turn, the summer interns provide valuable and necessary service to the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network program offices in which they are placed.

*Law students experience the real world of legal aid advocacy.* PLAN seeks opportunities for MLK Interns to experience direct client contact, participate in court hearings (for those certified), administrative hearings, legal research and writing on actual cases under the supervision of seasoned legal aid attorneys.

Each day, interns are challenged to put classroom training and talent to work on behalf of the many needy individuals the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network serves and to work creatively to reduce the barriers to a more just society. 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.

Each summer, the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network awards 10 paid internships to current law students to participate in legal services work over the traditional 10-week summer internship period.

**History:** The Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Internship Program was established in 1991 to encourage and support a diversity of attorneys to work in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network programs across the commonwealth. The goal is to promote cultural and ethnic diversity in legal services and to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since its inception, which was prompted by the Pennsylvania Legal Services Black Caucus, over 260 law students have participated in the program.

A current law student (1 and 2Ls) may indicate their interest in serving as a MLK summer intern by sending a letter (expressing interest and preferences), resume and three (3) references to:

**MLK Summer Internship**

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

**MLK Fellowship Program**

In 2003, an evaluation of the MLK summer internship program revealed that while the internship experience has 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 MLK 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.

*PLAN hired the first MLK Fellows in fall of 2004:*

**Sharele T. Tucker**, a graduate of Widener Law School in 2001, began her fellowship with MidPenn Legal Services (MPLS) at the Chambersburg office in September 2004.

**Kaiyilla J. Matthews**, a graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2004, began her fellowship with Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) at the Chester office in October 2004

**Nicole Scialabba**, a June 2006 graduate of Duquesne University School of Law is the most recent MLK Fellowship appointment. Nicole will begin her public interest career at Neighborhood Legal services Association (NLSA) in August 2006.

The MLK Fellowship *is not* a two year limited employment program. It is intended to support and promote new lawyers who are interested in a long term public interest career.

Third year and recent law school graduates may indicate their interest in the MLK Fellowship program by sending a letter expressing interest, a resume, three (3) writing samples and three (3) references to:

**MLK Fellowship**

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

For additional information or questions about the summer internship or fellowship program, you may contact the coordinator: Cynthia G. Newcomer, Chief Administrative Officer, at [cnewcomer@palegalservices.org](mailto:cnewcomer@palegalservices.org), or by phone at 1-800-322-7572, ext. 216.