Public Interest Law Foundation Fellows of 2006

Austin Anderson
International Justice Mission
Chiang Mai, Thailand
• Composed report analyzing the Burmese junta’s violations of the international standards governing their actions.
• Conducted legal research, interviewed witnesses, and drafted a memorandum regarding a case of arbitrary detention.
• Compiled a legal notebook to assist with a NGO’s (nongovernmental organization) human rights documentation procedures.

Colleen Bell
Legal Aid Services of Oregon
Portland, Oregon
• Represented domestic violence clients in restraining order hearings.
• Conducted client intake and placed domestic violence victims with pro bono attorneys.
• Operated a bi-monthly night clinic coordinating pro bono attorneys and clients.
• Drafted and researched memos in the areas of housing, public benefits, and family law.

Sara Bergene
Community Refugee and Immigration Services
Columbus, Ohio
• Conducted intake and directed immigration related inquiries.
• Assisted counsel in providing immigration-related legal advice and services.
• Prepared immigration related documents for clients.
• Implemented several on going grants for the immigration program.
• Coordinated volunteer activities, including after hours and weekend immigration clinics.

Heather Charnegie
Ohio State Legal Services Association
Columbus, Ohio
• Conducted research and wrote memos to assist legal aid attorneys on a variety of poverty law issues, including domestic relations, landlord-tenant, and public benefits.
  • Authored informational brochures for low-income client population.
• Gathered evidence for landlord-tenant cases.
• Handled low income taxpayer clinic cases.
• Authored low-income taxpayer clinic training materials.

Alexander Chen
Maricopa County Attorney’s Office
Maricopa, Arizona
• Externed in the trial division which handled a variety of cases from assault to vehicle theft.
• Responded to various motions.
• Interviewed victims of serious crimes.
Megan Engle  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights  
Louisville, Kentucky  
- Drafted and edited motions, memoranda, complaints, and other legal documents.  
- Researched and investigated complaints of discrimination made under the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and determined probable cause.  
- Attended Commission meetings, administrative hearings, and Chief Justice Lambert’s Task Force on Racial Fairness meetings.  
- Participated in on-site visits to assess respondents’ ADA compliance.

Katherine Lengieza  
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid  
Austin, Texas  
- Worked with victims of Hurricane Katrina who were denied FEMA benefits.  
- Appealed FEMA denials for personal property assistance and rental assistance.  
- Assisted with a motion for no-evidence summary judgment in a predatory lending case.  
- Wrote various memos and manuals to assist clients starting small businesses.

Phil Morrow  
New York State Office of the Attorney General  
New York, New York  
- Worked in the Investment Protection Bureau/Criminal Prosecutions Bureau.  
- Performed research and wrote memoranda, assisted with deposition preparation, and performed document review at direction of Assistant Attorney General in complex securities fraud litigation.

Ryan Muennich  
Equal Justice Foundation  
Columbus, Ohio  
- Drafted complaint and interrogatories in insurance fraud, civil conspiracy, and breach of contract case; memoranda on attorney’s fees as a condition of reinstatement on a defaulted mortgage; retainer for improperly evicted tenant, and initiated contact with landlord.  
- Drafted various answers to foreclosure complaints; memoranda on durable power of attorney for healthcare conflicting with a court-appointed guardian ad litem; and a motion to compel discovery in a multimillion dollar insurance recovery on a 1000 unit apartment complex.  
- Performed client intake, and presented cases to staff attorneys for consideration.

Veronica Norman  
Equal Justice Foundation  
Columbus, Ohio  
- Drafted complaints, interrogatories, motions to compel, and motions to show cause in predatory lending and consumer fraud cases.  
- Conducted research and drafted memoranda regarding class action cases concerning fair housing and a case concerning enforcement of a divorce decree.  
- Performed client intake and presented cases to staff attorneys for consideration.
Tanisha Wilburn  
Texas Civil Rights Project  
Austin, Texas  
- Drafted briefs and motions on substantive civil rights issues such as police brutality, disability discrimination, and first amendment issues.  
- Interviewed clients and conducted factual investigations for various cases.  
- Drafted deposition questions, complaints, and witness interview questions.

Genevieve Reiner  
Queens County District Attorney’s Office  
Kew Gardens, New York  
- Worked in the Domestic Violence Unit.  
- Argued pre-trial bench hearings.  
- Developed and offered pre-trial plea bargains.  
- Researched and wrote pre-trial motions and notices.  
- Assisted with trial preparation and interviewed witnesses.

Kate Winner  
Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio  
- Composed sentencing motions and memoranda advocating for downward departure under the Sentencing Guidelines.  
- Researched and wrote rehabilitation programs and possible prison assignments for clients.  
- Assisted with the development of compliance guidelines for new welfare regulations.

Kathryn Wilkes  
Ohio State Legal Services  
Columbus and Athens Ohio  
- Conducted legal research, investigated facts, conducted client interviews, and drafted memoranda on a variety of legal issues for legal aid branch offices including: tax law, domestic relations, immigration, and landlord-tenant.  
- Assisted with the development of resources and reference material including benefits eligibility and homeless rights.  
- Worked with the Athens Legal Services’ office Violence Against Women Act attorney to conduct client interviews, prepare clients to testify, assist in fact finding, and provide research and support.

Erin Steiner  
Ohio State Legal Services Association  
Columbus, Ohio  
- Conducted research, investigated facts, and drafted memoranda, notices and pleadings on a variety of legal issues including tax law, domestic relations, landlord-tenant and lending law for state-wide legal aid branch offices.  
- Assisted with the development of compliance guidelines for new welfare regulations.