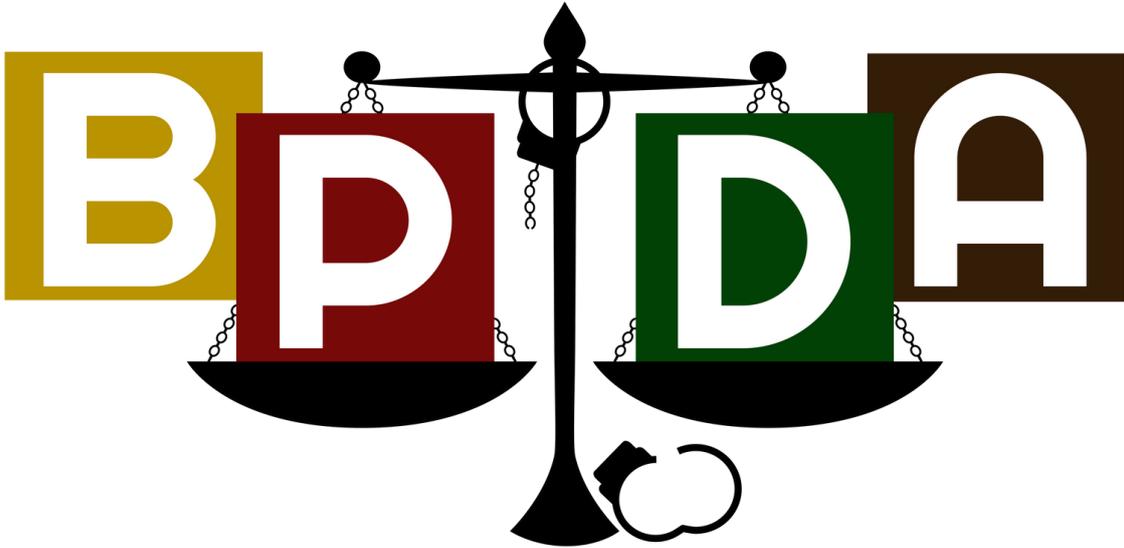


BLACK PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

HOST SITE PROJECTS





Our Mission & Fellowship
Information

1

HOST SITE PROJECTS



Oakland

2



Nashville

3



New Orleans

4



New York

5

OUR MISSION

The Black Public Defender Association BPDA aims to improve the quality of defense provided to low-income communities across the United States by creating and maintaining a national network of skilled Black public defenders that identify with and are committed to the populations they serve.

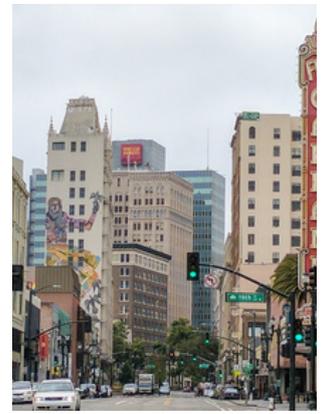


The BPDA Community Engagement Fellowship is a 12-week summer program that pairs Black undergraduate and graduate HBCU students, who aspire to do racial equity and community defense work, with public defender offices. Building a pipeline of Black defenders is one of BPDA's core pillars. BPDA exists to support all Black defenders, including attorneys, paralegals, social workers, mitigation specialists, investigators, and client advocates. The BPDA Community Engagement Fellowship is open to students seeking careers in all areas of public defense.

This internship opportunity will offer hands-on lessons about addressing systemic issues of racism that plague the legal system while inspiring young people to achieve their educational goals and consider careers in public defense. The internship opportunity will be promoted to Black undergraduates and graduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

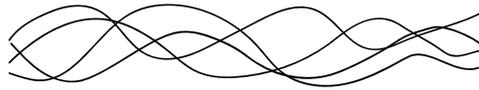
The BPDA Community Engagement Fellowship also provides an opportunity for four public defender offices access to a fully paid full-time intern for the summer at little to no cost to them. These project sites chosen will provide excellent opportunities to implement a project or program that expands their outreach to the communities they serve in an effort to promote racial equity.

Alameda County Public Defender Office OAKLAND



We have three overarching goals for our fellow during their time with us:

- 1) participating in our unique, multidisciplinary, and holistic Clean Slate practice that not only focuses on criminal records remedies but brings together advocacy in employment and occupational licensure matters, legislative and policy work, and community outreach
- 2) incorporating our Clean Slate Program into the community, to the extent that we can, despite the COVID19 pandemic
- 3) an overall exposure to and deepening of an understanding of our mission and work as public defenders



During the 12-week period the Fellow will attend a general summer intern orientation to learn about the Alameda County Public Defender's Office as a whole including, but not exclusive of:

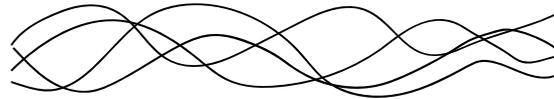
- Attend Clean Slate orientation and training about the Unit, the services it provides, and the applicable law
- Assist attorneys in creation and organization of materials to be filed on behalf of clients
- Observe four (4) Clean Slate court calendar days and debrief with attorneys
- Informational interviews with internal and external partners:
- Internal (two or more of the following): Partners for Justice client advocate, Immigration attorney, public defender, Homeless Court staff
- External (two or more of the following): education institution, employment program, community nonprofit
- Interview/survey of ten (10) former Clean Slate clients about impact of records remedies and their Clean Slate experience
- Preparation of "one-pager" materials about two (2) commonly sought occupational licenses to be distributed to attorneys or clients (or both)
- Research local schools and occupational licensing training programs
- Assist attorneys in organizing, publicizing, and staffing one (1) Clean Slate community event
- Attend and observe occupational licensing and coalition meetings regarding legislative and policy initiatives

Metro Nashville Public Defender Office

NASHVILLE



Defend Nashville is an initiative that included multiple components intended to connect with our community and improve our engagement with our clients. A fellow would help us re-imagine what it means to Defend Nashville. In particular, we would like to rekindle partnerships with organizations we've worked with in the past, as well as find new partnerships with other community organizations. We also have a number of colleges in town, including Tennessee State University and Fisk University (both HBCUs that are in the 37208 zip code - the highest percentage of incarcerated persons in the country), who are untapped partners.



Nashville loves to celebrate its role in the Civil Rights movement and thinks of itself as a progressive city that has emerged triumphantly from segregation. We have very little insight or accountability into the ways that we continue to disenfranchise and marginalize poor people and especially people of color. The study that found 37208 to be the most incarcerated zip code in the country has prompted lots of intellectual curiosity but very little action. As public defenders, we see the harms of mass incarceration more clearly than many.

Although we have lots of ways to holistically support our clients through investigation, social services, immigration advice, and education intervention when individuals need these services, we need our client communities to partner with us if we have any hope of systemic change and preventing more individuals from needing our services in the first place. Better connections with community partners and the direct input from our clients will help us on this path.

Orleans Public Defender NEW ORLEANS



The Fellow would assist with our policy advocacy at the local and state level. New Orleans remains one of the most incarcerated places on Earth. Injustice, discrimination, and inequity loom large in our criminal legal system. We partner with our community and other stakeholders to combat these injustices, reform our criminal legal system, and create a supportive and healthy community. Specifically, planned local initiatives include:

- 1.) Working to ensure the recent mass pardon of marijuana convictions by the City Council are made meaningful by large scale expungements
- 2.) Pushing back against government overreach in the form of heightened surveillance of citizens; ensuring parity between prosecutors and public defenders
- 3.) Protecting and expanding local reforms in the use of money bail and pretrial detention. Statewide, our main focus is on pretrial justice and pretrial detention. Additionally, we continue to defend the sentencing reforms made as part of the Statewide Justice Reinvestment Initiative of 2017 as carceral forces try to undo them.



OPD, like most public defender offices, suffers from a lack of capacity, particularly in specialized areas like policy and community advocacy. The very idea of client-centered, community-oriented public defense centers around community. Over the last 15 years, we have sought to increase our engagement with other grassroots organizations, connect with neighborhoods, churches and schools.

In the last 5 years, we have made significant strides in further increasing that engagement through community outreach, both for our own efforts and in support of other organizations' efforts - and policy advocacy at the local and state level in both leading and supporting roles.

The work of engaging the community is never over and the policy fellow will further those efforts. Significant and meaningful change happens with two main tactics working in tandem: policy and constituency. By working with both the policy and community engagement teams, the fellow will be able to further align the two.

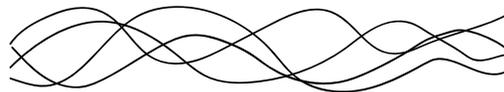
The Legal Aid Society New York

NEW YORK



Our community justice unit was established in 2011, as part of the NYC Council's Task Force to Combat Gun Violence. The Community Justice Unit (CJU) shares the Cure Violence (CV) philosophy; that violence can be curtailed with early intervention and community engagement. Our work empowers communities impacted by gun violence to develop proactive strategies to reduce violence through providing holistic legal representation to under-served communities throughout the five boroughs of New York City. In addition to legal counsel, the CJU conducts extensive community outreach, including providing legal clinics and Know Your Rights training to a CV network, consisting of all Cure Violence/Crisis Management partners.

The Community Engagement fellow will join the team of 16 attorneys and community organizers that staff the unit. The fellow's project will focus on design, delivery and support for the creation of eClinics; we seek to develop a communications platform that supports community engagement. The intern will have the opportunity to partner with attorneys and community organizers from CDP, Civil and JRP to draft, update and deliver "Know Your Rights information and campaigns that support community outreach efforts and our community partner agencies.



Some key aspects of the summer experience will include:

- Supporting opportunities for engaging community members, including conducting street outreach, attending community events, and convening client advisory boards and community roundtables
- Using social media and other digital tools to support community engagement and organizing
- Organizing and delivering know-your-rights and other information and training sessions designed to assist people in advocating for themselves and participating in the criminal legal reform efforts
- Connecting community members with legal services at Legal Aid and other direct service organizations
- Representing Legal Aid at community events

BPDA TEAM



HEATHER PINCKNEY

Executive Director



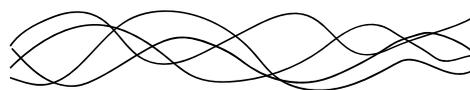
ALAINA BLOODWORTH

Deputy Director

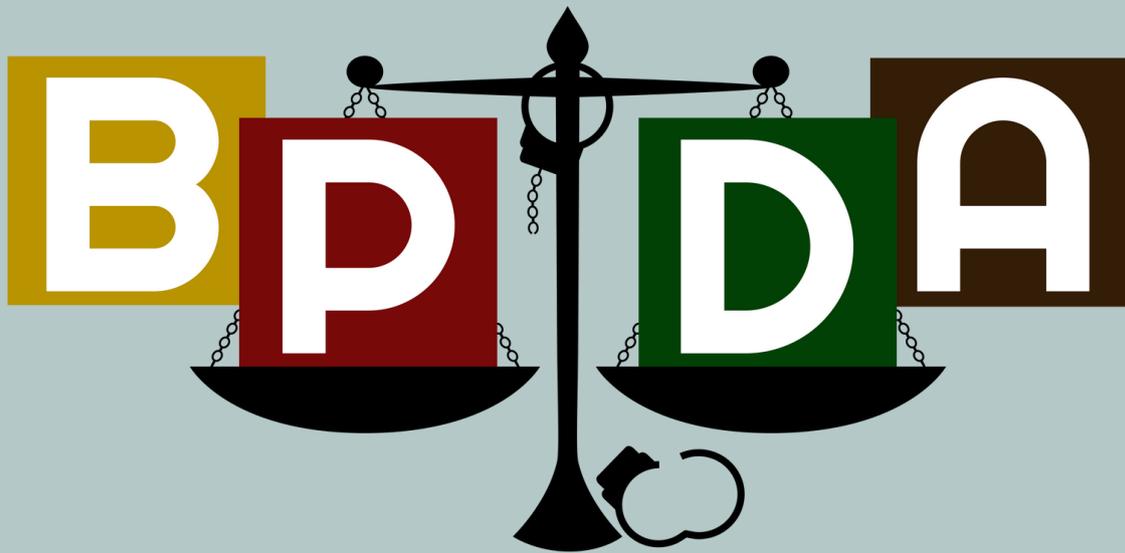


ANGELYN C. FRAZER-GILES

Project Consultant



"Fighting daily for our clients and communities against racism and other systems of oppression"



Student Applications due Friday April 8, 2022
Students informed May 2, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

WWW.BLACKDEFENDER.ORG

CONTACT:

A.FRAZER-GILES@NLADA.ORG