

CJP COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

CJP HIGHLIGHTS

May 2019

CJP Pittsburgh Summer Interns Begin Work

Three legal interns started summer work at the CJP office in Pittsburgh. Marcus Gaines and Julie Daw, both Pitt Law School students, started their internships May 20. Susan Shu, a student at Georgetown Law School, will start on June 3. Summer legal interns in the Harrisburg office also start shortly.



Pitt Law students Marcus Gaines, left, and Julie Daw, center, began a summer internship in the CJP Pittsburgh office. Intern Susan Shu, right, of Georgetown Law, will start in June.

Marcus Gaines is a 2L student at Pitt Law and is CJP's MLK summer fellow. He has a master's degree in social work and past experience interning for the Education Law Center and the Federal Public Defender. **Julie Daw**, a 1L from Pitt Law, has a strong interest in public interest law, has previously interned at Jewish Family and Community Services, and speaks Arabic. **Susan Shu**, 1L, Georgetown Law, was a corporate and criminal lawyer in China prior to enrolling at Georgetown. She speaks fluent Mandarin. She is interested in civil rights and civil litigation and hopes to practice in these areas in the United States after she graduates.

CJP Settles Complaint Against Scranton Housing Authority

CJP filed administrative complaints with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development against the Scranton Housing Authority ("SHA"), alleging that the SHA was failing to provide adequate language services to limited English proficient ("LEP") tenants and applicants, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act. CJP recently reached a settlement with the SHA, requiring the SHA to make major changes to its language access policies and practices. The settlement requires, in part, for the SHA to provide interpretation to all LEP tenants and applicants, to translate vital documents, and to provide notice of language access rights. Under the settlement, the SHA must also provide monetary compensation to our clients and attorneys' fees.

CJP Intervenes on Behalf of Mobile Home Park Residents in Somerset

After organizing a residents' association at the Cherry Lane mobile home park in Somerset County, CJP petitioned the court on behalf of the association to intervene in a nuisance lawsuit originally filed by the Borough of Somerset. The Court granted the petition, giving the association the ability to ask the court to order further remedial action.

CJP Helps Western PA Mobile Home Resident

CJP closed a case with a Mobile Home Project resident in Butler County, negotiating with the mobile home park owner to replace a leaking gas line from the main line to the client's mobile home that had left the mobile home without gas service for over three months. Spanish language paralegal Rafael Bullones assisted on the case.

CJP Advises Domestic Violence Group

Immigration attorney Tamara Shehadeh-Cope presented at a gathering in April in Wilkes-Barre hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence's ("PCADV") Battered/Formerly Battered Women's Caucus. Her presentation focused on ways in which domestic violence shelters and service providers can best advocate for immigrant victims of domestic violence and similar crimes.

CJP Awarded Heinz Grant to Address Lead in Rental Housing

CJP was recently awarded a grant from the Heinz Endowments to work in coordination with the Get the Lead Out Pittsburgh Coalition to reduce the risk of lead exposure in residential dwellings in Allegheny County, particularly among low-income renters. The grant work will focus on policy advocacy with municipalities, legal support for families affected by lead exposure in their homes, and engagement of the HUD-funded entities in the region to strengthen lead-safe requirements in assisted housing. The ultimate purpose of the project is to cause a shift in the approach of policymakers and housing providers to residential lead exposure, which disproportionately affects lower-income families who rent their homes.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

A gift to CJP goes a long way in providing effective legal assistance to protect the basic needs of and rights of Pennsylvania's poor families and low-wage workers.

Please consider making a gift to:

Community Justice Project, 118 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Also consider naming the Community Justice Project for *cy pres* awards/class action residuals.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about CJP, contact Marielle Macher at mmacher@cjplaw.org or 717-236-9486, ext. 214.