



Host Site: Legal Aid of West Virginia

Project: WV Opioid Legal Response Project

Location: Martinsburg, WV, Elkins, WV, or Parkersburg, WV

Description of Fellow Project:

In rural counties served by LAWV's offices, the student participating in the WV Opioid Legal Response Project will: 1) Assist LAWV staff with direct representation to secure safety, stability, and economic and educational support for low income children living in kinship care; 2) Support staff in providing direct legal assistance to domestic violence victims who are in recovery from substance abuse disorder and/or whose safety (and that of their children) is compromised by the perpetrator's ongoing use of opioids; 3) Assist LAWV staff in doing outreach and legal education for community partners and the public regarding legal issues related to kinship care or the overlay of substance use disorder with domestic violence; and 4) Prepare community education materials on the above topics to be posted on LAWV's website and to be distributed to the public. The office in which the student will be placed serves multiple rural counties hard hit by Appalachia's opioid crisis. The student's experiences will be supported by a Supervising Attorney with extensive legal and supervisory experience, and by a team of energetic staff, several of whom have specialized expertise in kinship care cases and domestic violence cases in which substance use disorder is a factor.

