

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Judicial Fellows for Fall 2017 named: Alexander Burns and Callie Hunter Kanim**

Burns and Kanim are the second class of Fellows for new program

The Delaware Judiciary and the University of Delaware are pleased to announce the Judicial Fellows for the Fall of 2017 are Alexander Burns and Callie Hunter Kanim.

Kanim, 22, of Westchester County, NY and Burns, 24 of Landenberg, Pa., are Master of Public Administration (MPA) students in the University of Delaware's School of Public Policy and Administration and represent the second class of Judicial Fellows for the Delaware Judiciary since the program was launched in January 2017.

The Judicial Fellows Program (<http://www.ipa.udel.edu/judicial/>) is a joint effort between the Delaware Judicial Branch and the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) and is modeled on IPA's successful and long-running Legislative Fellows Program, where graduate students work with the Delaware General Assembly. In the Judicial Fellows Program two full-time graduate-level students work with the Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts, gaining on-the-job experience while assisting court staff in researching pressing government and legal issues and helping to implement solutions. In this way the program also mirrors another ongoing cooperative effort between the Delaware Courts and the University of Delaware: the ten-year process improvement partnership with the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, where students work with court staff and the court's partners on ways to improve efficiency in court operations.

The first class of Judicial Fellows focused on researching an innovative program whereby inmates could pay down their court-imposed fines and fees by working for the prison and then have the chance to emerge from prison without crushing levels of debt that they otherwise could never hope to pay.

Kanim said she joined the Judicial Fellows program because she said she wanted to know more about how public policy is carried out in the third branch of government, the courts. "In school, I learned a great deal about public policy in the executive and legislative branches, but not much about the courts," she said. In particular, Kanim said she has done research on restorative versus punitive justice systems and was excited to learn that Delaware has been looking into furthering the restorative justice concept through a Community Court program.

Burns is returning to the Judicial Fellows program after being in its inaugural class in the Spring of 2017. When he first joined the Judicial Fellows program, Burns said he applied because it fit with his career interests and academic focus. "I'm interested in the role of law in bringing about positive social change," he said. Burns said he returned for a second semester as a Fellow because, like Kanim, he is excited about the work Delaware is doing to establish a Community Court.

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