



**Keegan
Warren-Clem**

**Texas Legal
Services Center
Austin, TX**

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**Texas Access to
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FELLOWSHIP SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Keegan established the Austin Medical-Legal Partnership (AMLPL) to mitigate the socio-legal factors that adversely impact health of low-income patients through direct representation, educating health care professionals, community outreach, and policy reforms.

NEED ADDRESSED BY PROJECT

For those of modest income, it is often impossible to navigate our complex legal system to effectively address issues that adversely impact health, such as poor housing conditions. AMLPL eliminates or mitigates the socio-legal factors that negatively impact health by providing direct or referral legal services to affected patients, training health care students and professionals to recognize relevant legal issues underlying medical problems, educating the community, and supporting policy reform. This project improved access to legal services in a way that produces better health outcomes.

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

In the past two years, Keegan has:

- Provided legal counsel to more than 400 patients and family members that improved health care outcomes and achieved better overall health and well-being for those clients
- Trained more than 200 health care providers, pediatric residents, and other medical staff on the connections between health and unmet legal needs
- Prepared more than 100 memoranda to health care providers on substantive law issues known to undermine the health of patients

POST-FELLOWSHIP PLANS

Now that the Fellowship is complete, Keegan plans to:

- Help expand the Austin Medical-Legal Partnership to other clinical sites in and around Austin
- Earn a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in health law and policy