

ABE Pardon Fellows 2021-2022

In March 2021, the American Bar Endowment (ABE) awarded an Opportunity Grant to Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity to provide a stipend to four people with lived experience in the criminal justice system, with the purpose of helping PLSE create countywide Pardon Projects around Pennsylvania. The idea was to see if PLSE's "Mike Lee Fellowships" could be replicated.

These are the four inaugural Pardon Fellows in Pennsylvania, thanks to the ABE.

They have already inspired two more.



Kyle Duff (Washington County)

Kyle Duff is the Project Coordinator for the Washington County Pardon Project at Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid. Kyle is someone with lived experience in the criminal justice system, at both state and county level. He is a graduate of the Washington County Restrictive Treatment Program (Drug Court), a Certified Recovery Specialist, and a Certified Family Recovery Specialist. Kyle formally managed a men's recovery house, owned and operated by Resurrection Power and now sits on the Board of Directors at the Harmony Life Center <https://harmonylifecenter.org>. He is employed full time as a machinist at the Washington Tool & Machine Company.



Krista Henry (Centre County)

Krista Henry is from State College, PA. A Pardon Fellow with the Pardon Project of Centre College, she is serving as its Coordinator and helping it expand from a clinic at Penn State's law school to being a countywide project. She is also employed as a Case Manager at Out of the Cold, a local homeless shelter. In 2020, Krista helped found a faith-based non-profit organization, Go Reentry www.GoReentry.com, where she is now a Reentry Specialist. The mission of Go Reentry is to help formerly incarcerated individuals find their way out of the cycle of recidivism. She is a Certified Recovery Specialist and Certified Family Recovery Specialist and is currently working on becoming a Certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counseling. It was through her lived experience with the carceral system and addiction that Krista has gained a passion to help others. This is reflected in the work she has chosen to do.



Antonio M. Howard (Erie County)

At the young age of 15, **Antonio Howard** was incarcerated and sentenced to life in prison where he served 26 ½ years. While in prison, he educated himself on the concepts and processes of visual art-making through instructional books. Released in 2018, he is committed to serving the community and creating community connection points through art and meaningful dialog. A muralist, he is the recipient of several awards and fellowships for his art and is also the author of three books, including *When A Child Is Worth More Than the Worst Mistake He Ever Made*. He is a member of the board of directors for the Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, a member of the Steering Committee for the Pardon Project of Erie County, and a core organizer of Erie's Participatory Defense, an Erie community organization that offers support to individuals and their loved ones navigating the criminal legal system. Antonio is employed as a paralegal with the Federal Public Defender.



Genevieve Longenecker (Lancaster County)

With lived experience with a substance abuse disorder and involvement in the criminal justice system, **Genevieve Longenecker** is focused on dismantling the stigma of addiction and alcoholism which is heavily woven into the criminal justice system. She is passionate about educating the community about the necessity of harm reduction surrounding the substance abuse population within the community. Genevieve became a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) when working at an outpatient substance abuse clinic and decided to begin working on her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration on addictions. Working as a CRS assisted her in finding the tools to best assist the clients, meeting them where they are at, and not enabling the drug and alcohol community. This has aligned Genevieve's work as a Pardon Fellow with her goal to create a positive and realistic outcome for individuals seeking a pardon. She is employed by CareerLinks of Lancaster County as a Reentry Career Navigator.