



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jackson Springer

Law School: Columbia Law School

Organization: Public Counsel

Update 1:

After finishing my first year at Columbia Law School, I am working with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law Project (OUL) this summer. Public Counsel is the nation's largest provider of pro bono legal services, and OUL is the organization's community-driven impact litigation group.

My work is partially funded by an award from Equal Justice America, an organization that supports law students working to address the civil legal needs of our most vulnerable populations. Every two weeks I will be posting an EJA Fellow Update.

During the first two weeks of my internship, I have been working on a lawsuit OUL brought against New York City and State arguing that the New York Constitution guarantees a right to an anti-racist education.

New York City's school system is the most racially and socioeconomically segregated in the country and systematically excludes Black and Latinx students from gifted and talented programs and selective schools. These discriminatory features of New York City's education system violate students' right to a basic education guaranteed by the New York Constitution. So far this summer, I am researching and writing about the nature of New York's education rights and the way courts interpret and enforce these rights.

Update 2:

In my last two weeks working with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law Project, I have continued working on the lawsuit seeking to secure a right to an anti-racist education under the New York Constitution. I have met with community partners about the school system's exact methods of channeling opportunity away from Black, Latinx, and low-income New Yorkers. I am also researching the possible remedies available for lawsuits of this type.



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Update 3:

In my last two weeks working with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law Project, I have begun contributing legal research to a new disability rights case. The case is in the early stages of development, but we are hoping to secure expanded protections for people with disabilities in California!

Update 4:

In my last two weeks working with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law Project, I have continued contributing legal research to our new disability rights case.

I have also been working on compiling the complaint in the case. We are getting ready to file and have been discussing the various legal strategies we should pursue to best serve our clients and the wider L.A. community.

Update 5:

I recently concluded my work this summer with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law Project. In my last few weeks, I joined a new case seeking to protect the welfare of Indian children. We just filed an amicus brief in the case, which is before the Supreme Court.

In my last two weeks, I also helped draft the complaint of the disability rights case I have been working on all summer. We are getting ready to file the complaint in the near future!

I have really enjoyed my time at Public Counsel this summer and thank Equal Justice America for their support.