



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Update 1:

This summer, I am working at MacArthur Justice Center (MJC) in Chicago as an Equal Justice America fellow. Most of my week has been spent writing pre-trial motions for a big case we are working on. This litigation centers around a particular individual - someone who has suffered tremendously from our country's abusive criminal legal system. Doing the work for him alone feels immeasurably important, but I am also grateful to be contributing to the case because of its potential to create large-scale change. Also, getting to learn from the experienced attorneys at MJC will help me develop skills that I will use throughout my lifetime – as I try to use my law degree to create a better, more just world!

Update 2:

I've been hard at work at MacArthur Justice Center (MJC) in Chicago over the past few weeks. I've continued to draft pretrial motions and responses, and I'm getting better at legal research every day. I've also assisted with some client legal calls, and I'm working on a records request to a police department. MJC has identified so many effective tools for advocacy - and they are working with community groups across the country to ensure that our cases are responsive and community-directed. I feel lucky to be learning from these amazing advocates!

Update 3:

We are deep in trial prep at MacArthur Justice Center (MJC)! We are preparing witnesses, responding to motions by opposing counsel, and prepping our client to testify. It's really cool to watch this stage of the process. There is a lot of strategy involved, and I'm learning from attorneys who have been through it many times over. I've also been able to contribute to brief drafting and evidence review for a few other cases. Our clients are facing very difficult circumstances, but it feels good to be able to listen to their stories and spring into action



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Update 4:

In my last few weeks at MacArthur Justice Center (MJC) in Chicago as an Equal Justice America fellow. I'm working on depositions right now - watching some, preparing for those we have upcoming. These attorneys are so experienced, but it's helpful to see how they break it down ahead of time, preparing questions that will lead in the right direction. Some witnesses are so much more opaque than others... and seven hours is such a long time. Still enjoying the work and learning a lot. Procedure is a prerequisite to winning - and it can be so complicated. Lucky to be here! Trying to use my law degree to create a better, more just world!

Update 5:

I have finished my internship at MacArthur Justice Center (MJC) in Chicago as an Equal Justice America fellow. I'm grateful for the opportunity to gain insight into their work! The cases they take on are so important - critical to advancing the rights of people who are incarcerated and subject to abusive policing. But civil rights litigation is a long game. Many of the day-to-day issues are procedural and technical. Their staff is gifted at writing, and I felt lucky to be privy to their strategic and creative thinking. I got such good feedback on my work, too! Some of the attorneys are also Northwestern clinical professors, so they are used to working with students and putting effort into training the next generation of committed advocates. It was a wonderful summer, and I am grateful to Equal Justice America for helping to make it possible!