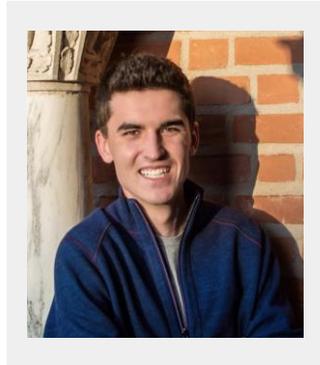




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jarrett Prchal

Law School: Stanford

Organization: Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

Update 1: I am excited to share that I am working at the Community Revitalization Project at Legal Aid of North West Texas this summer! I have just finished my first week, and I am excited to work with the people across our service area on a number of issues.

I chose the Community Revitalization Project for their focus on community level engagement and change. They take on cases that effect people in broad areas to maximize the impact of their efforts. Just this week, I have seen some of the projects that CRP has on their plate, and I am excited to be involved with projects related to housing, environmental concerns, and economic opportunity.

Stay tuned for more updates throughout the summer! I couldn't be more excited!

Update 2: Three weeks in, it has been exciting to be a part of the Community Revitalization Project at LANWT. I have gotten to see progress on a number of projects, including a positive update that came out of the community meeting I sat in on in my first week.

I continue to work on a legislative research project. Because the law is ambiguous, I have looked into the legislative history to determine the implications the law may have when it is applied. It has been eye-opening to explore the pressures that led to this bill being passed, and cool to see how that can be mapped to impacts on communities that we serve.

Most recently, I have started to look into regulatory compliance. I am looking at a new state environmental law and how it interacts with requirements from the EPA and federal law, looking to identify some opportunities for recourse.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Update 3: Another update on my work with CRP! The last two weeks have been more focused on dives into specific delegations of power from the federal government and developing a strategy to get help from the federal government to address issues on a local level.

It has been particularly interesting to see how political environmental regulation can be, and how the influence of either party on an institution may affect their interest in taking on a specific issue. Seeing that reality at play has been eye-opening, and is a helpful lesson to learn

I have also gotten to write some specific requests for information that will arm communities to use the permitting process to protect themselves. As much as I enjoy the macro-level work addressing Texas environmental policy as a whole, it has also been nice to work on addressing specific environmental issues affecting communities here in Dallas.

Update 4: As I move into the later days of the summer with legal aid, I am still getting to see a lot of new issues. I have gotten to work on the intersection of environmental reporting rules and security regulation. In my last update, I spoke a bit about working on requests for information. Information can arm the communities we work with and allow them to better advocate for themselves, but there is a lot of resistance to providing that information.

Although the case I worked on specifically focused on concerns over public access to information on dangerous chemicals, across the board, access to information that is useful to the public is limited, often by city or state officials. This also contributes to added animosity between the communities we work with and the government. Many of our client communities don't trust the government, and I can't blame them. However, it makes it difficult to advance conversation that may produce cooperative and sustaining solutions.

Update 5: On Friday, I finished my work at Legal Aid of Northwest Texas for the summer. In addition to getting exposure to a variety of legal issues, I also am grateful to have met so many lawyers working on the legal issues facing low-income populations across Texas, especially on environmental issues.

Coming into the summer, I didn't know I would specifically be working on environmental issues, but seeing the need for environmental justice efforts, especially in Texas, I am glad to have gotten to explore this area of work and hope to explore it more in the future. I am also

The importance of legal aid work is hard to overstate, and having worked for a summer in legal aid, I can say confidently that they can use all the help they can get. Equal Justice America supports legal aid work, so please consider donating.