



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Allison Kruschke

Law School: Michigan State University

EJA Fellowship: Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

This summer I have the privilege of interning with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee as an Equal Justice America Fellow. Over the past few weeks, I've been able to support attorneys doing amazing work to improve access to justice in a city that is very close to my heart. Support from organizations like Equal Justice America lets law students like me gain valuable experience in public interest law.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

During my summer internship at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, I've seen first-hand how issues surrounding access to affordable housing and housing discrimination impact the lives of low-income people. This summer, thanks to help from Equal Justice America, I've assisted attorneys in challenging a deceptive rent-to-own scheme affecting many Wisconsin consumers. Without organizations like Legal Aid and EJA, many of these clients may not have access to legal representation they need in order to get the justice they deserve.



Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

My previous work at housing nonprofits in Milwaukee taught me that housing is more than just a roof over a family's head – access to safe, decent and affordable housing is a public health issue that affects thousands of people throughout #Milwaukee and #Wisconsin. I choose to go to law school and build a career in housing policy because I know that when our neighbors don't have access to adequate housing, our whole community suffers. The Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee does incredibly important work in helping stop evictions, prevent homelessness and foreclosure, and combat the housing discrimination that makes Milwaukee our nation's most segregated city.

This summer, I've been able to gain valuable experience as an Equal Justice America Fellow at Legal Aid – experience that will make me a better advocate for those in need in the years to come.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

As I wrap up my time at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, I'm happy to say that I've learned a great deal about what it means to provide legal services to those in need. There are so many ways to help alleviate poverty, racism and discrimination, but providing help to those with civil legal needs who can't afford an attorney is one of the most important. Systemic change can happen with the help of public interest-minded attorneys who empower their clients! I'm thankful to the Legal Aid Society and to Equal Justice America for helping me experience what it means to be a public interest lawyer.



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COLLEEN FOLEY
Executive Director

September 10, 2018

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

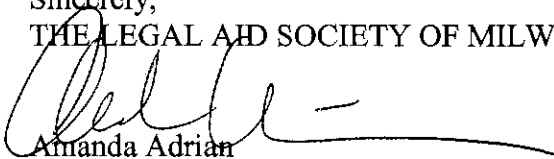
I had the pleasure of supervising Allison Kruschke this summer at Legal Aid. Allison's research, analytical and organizational skills were exceptional—particularly for a first-year law student. Her interpersonal skills and maturity were no less impressive.

The bulk of Allison's assignments were related to my largest litigation matter, where Legal Aid has sued one of the largest land contract/rent-to-own vendors in the country on behalf of three individual clients. The State of Wisconsin was the original plaintiff in the case and we successfully intervened, along with 6 other individual plaintiffs represented by other legal services organizations. Allison completed research assignments involving intervention, stolen documents, taint, and the scope of an intervenor's discovery. She also helped out with some organizational tasks that we undertook to manage the large volume of filings in the case. Allison's written memos analyzing the results of her research were clearly written and cited to appropriate legal authority. She also asked good questions along the way when she was unsure about something. Her work on this case was truly helpful to me as I drafted briefs and prepared for hearings this summer.

Allison also completed projects involving the investigation, analysis and organization of key factual evidence. She analyzed a complicated history of mortgage servicing transactions and prepared an easy-to-understand summary of events for use in a mortgage servicing matter. She also organized six months of bank account transactions for use in a bankruptcy case.

In sum, we were lucky to have her and wish her the best in her legal career. I have no doubt that her work will positively impact her clients and the profession.

Sincerely,
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE, INC.


Amanda Adrian
Staff Attorney