



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Walter A. Jean-Jacques
Law School: Notre Dame Law School
EJA Fellowship: NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Over the past few weeks I have worked with [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#) on fighting racial discrimination by participating in protecting the right to vote efforts in Alabama, and promoting racial equality in our education system. It is an honor to work for an organization that is America's premier nonprofit legal organization, which fights for racial justice.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Since my last update, I have been able to work on issues pertaining to race-based affirmative action, securing the TPS status of Haitian immigrants in this country, and continued advocacy work on securing everyone's right to vote. It is an honor to work for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the premier civil rights law firm in the world. I am truly thankful to be an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer.

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Since my last update, I continue to work on issues pertaining to race-based affirmative action, securing the TPS status of Haitian immigrants in this country, and continued advocacy work on securing everyone's right to vote. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to attend LDF's Capital Punishment Conference this year. It is an honor to work for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the premier civil rights law firm in the world. I am truly thankful to be an [Equal Justice America](#) Fellow this summer.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate My experience this summer at the NAACP LDF was phenomenal. It was truly a blessing to work at my dream job and work on issues such as affirmative action and immigration. Thank you Equal Justice America for helping me make my dream come true.



August 29, 2018

Dear Ms. Toman:

I write to evaluate Walter A. Jean-Jacques. This summer, Walter served as a legal intern at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the organization founded by Justice Thurgood Marshall as the nation's first and most preeminent civil rights law firm. I am currently a Skadden Fellow at LDF and helped to supervise Walter during our 2018 Summer Internship Program. Walter was an intern in our office for ten weeks. He worked primarily on education cases, including our amicus efforts in the *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* case. Walter is a passionate advocate, and this showed in both the quality of his work and how he interacted with our staff and clients.

Because of the very competitive nature of our application process, LDF usually does not hire students who—like Walter at the time he came to LDF—have only completed one year of law school. Yet, I recall being particularly impressed from the start by the personal and professional experience that Walter brought. Indeed, Walter's past academic and work history allowed him to contribute substantively to our team's discussions in a unique and important way. While interns are sometimes afraid to speak up, Walter jumped in and provided thoughtful analysis. His previous work as a teacher in Baltimore enabled him to add to our education advocacy applying personal insight and experience. He also had previously worked on affirmative action policy while at the Century Foundation and brought invaluable background.

Walter came at a crucial time, as we were preparing to file a brief in an important and complex civil rights case. Walter helped tremendously. He conducted preliminary legal research as we developed our theory and argument. Toward the end of his internship, he was able to interface with clients under the supervision of attorneys and to help take and draft declarations. He was always well-prepared and professional.

Walter cares deeply about civil rights and is committed to public interest work. He was willing to work overtime to help us meet key deadlines. He took initiative, bringing issues to the attention of the team when appropriate. For example, he diligently tracked news coverage about the case and proactively provided us with important updates. He completed intellectually challenging assignments with skill, but he also paid attention to detail, such as reviewing local rules. In addition, Walter brought a positive attitude and interacted well with staff. In short, he is a team player.

We are indebted to the time and effort that Walter provided our team this summer and I have no doubt that Walter will continue to develop as an effective advocate. Should you require any additional information, I can be reached at Cmcclellan@naacpldf.org or 646-430-4460. Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cara McClellan

Cara McClellan