

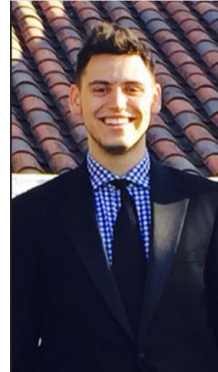


## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:

**Name:** Drew Gourley

**Law School:** Boston University

**Organization:** Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles



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### Week of 6/15:

As some of you know, I am working this summer as a Law Clerk (fancy term for intern) for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles ("LAFLA"). LAFLA "protects and advances the rights of the most underserved – leveling the playing field and ensuring that everyone can have access to the justice system." I feel incredibly fortunate to work for an organization that helps to ensure that the historically marginalized have an opportunity to have their voices heard.

My ability to work for LAFLA is made possible in part by Equal Justice America ("EJA"), an organization that funds law students who want to work with legal aid organizations and improve access to justice for people everywhere.

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### Week of 7/6:

People are good. I know that statement gets harder and harder to believe each day given the reckoning we are currently having with our systemically racist institutions and the anger we all feel surrounding individual and governmental pandemic response (wear your masks please!), but my work for LAFLA this summer has given me a privileged insight into our better angels.

Whether they're a victim of a tragic accident seeking disability so that they may live with dignity or a grandparent seeking foster custody of their grandchildren so they can provide them with a safe and loving home, my clients have shown profound perseverance, kindness, and optimism despite the most difficult of circumstances. Everyday, they remind me that our common humanity is so much more important than the things that divide us, and that when we prioritize that humanity there's no limit to what we can accomplish.



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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**Week of 7/27:**

I've had a great time working for LAFLA this summer. The work is incredibly important and needed now more than ever.

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**Week of 8/10:**

Now that my time at LAFLA has come to an end, I've had some time to reflect on the work I've been doing and why it needs to be done. To advocate on behalf of everyday people instead of corporations or conglomerates has been beyond rewarding, and just like the clients themselves give me hope, the ability to secure positive outcomes for them provides insight into how to create a more equitable legal system that puts people first.

If you want to donate to organizations that put people first and generate positive outcomes in the lives of marginalized individuals and communities, please consider donating to the following links:

LAFLA: <https://lafla.org/support-our-work/>

EJA: [www.equaljusticeamerica.org](http://www.equaljusticeamerica.org)