



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: Albany Law School

Organization: Empire Justice Center

Update 1: With the support of those at Equal Justice America, I am able to continue working for Empire Justice Center in their mission to achieve Justice for all New Yorkers. While I worked with Empire Justice Center during this past school year, I am now able to work within two different units: Crime Victims and Public Benefits. I have learned so much about the legal issues concerning disenfranchised groups of people, and I hope to continue doing this type of work in the future.

Update 2: So far, I have been able to work within the Public Benefits Unit and Crime Victims Unit. Through this, I have conducted legal research into many different topics in order to advocate for those who need it. Some of these topics include: college sexual assault, current law on Title IX, housing and public benefits available to low income New Yorkers, current case law on the extension of Orders of Protection for domestic abuse survivors, and more within this atmosphere of legal issues. Currently I am working on case research for the topic of foster parent rights and obligations when regarding their children. It has been very interesting and informative and I truly feel this will contribute significantly to my legal education.

Update 3: So far, I have been able to work within the Public Benefits Unit and Crime Victims Unit. Through this, I have conducted legal research into many different topics in order to advocate for those who need it. Some of these topics include: college sexual assault, current law on Title IX, housing and public benefits available to low income New Yorkers, current case law on the extension of Orders of Protection for domestic abuse survivors, and more within this atmosphere of legal issues.

Currently I am working on case law updates for those with Orders of Protection within New York. It is so important to have accurate information in this area, as people's lives and safety may depend on it. Orders of Protection can be more complex than people realize, with certain victims of domestic abuse being forced to jump through hoops to gain a sense of safety and normalcy. Also, within the atmosphere of domestic abuse lies the right to keep information private. The other day, I was researching case law regarding the legality of allowing media outlets to publish the addresses of hotels or motels where people are housed as part of an emergency shelter program. I am enjoying this opportunity that I have been blessed with, and I will continue to take advantage of the education I am receiving.



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Update 4: So far, I have been able to work within the Public Benefits Unit and Crime Victims Unit. Through this, I have conducted legal research into many different topics in order to advocate for those who need it. Some of these topics include: college sexual assault, current law on Title IX, housing and public benefits available to low income New Yorkers, current case law on the extension of Orders of Protection for domestic abuse survivors, and more within this atmosphere of legal issues.

I have been able to work on a specific case that deals with the child protection system and the due process rights that both children and foster parents retain. Working within this sphere has also allowed me to apply my knowledge from working as a behavioral specialist and therapeutic residential advisor. The legal system and mental healthcare system, especially regarding minors, are very intertwined and the overlap is something I have enjoyed exploring. While this summer is coming to an end, I'm grateful for the opportunities I have been given.

Update 5: With all the chaos of school starting again and other responsibilities, I forgot to share the concluding update on my internship. Even though I just started my second year, I am already finding myself applying concepts and technologies that I learned during my internship at Empire Justice Center. Equal Justice America sponsored me during this summer, and this allowed me to continue working and learning in this area of law. I was able to complete several projects that served the people of Albany, New York. I did a lot, but some of the projects that I enjoyed the most were: summarizing cases and documents into a public benefits server so that others may access this information and aid their clients, researching sexual assault within New York colleges so that a handbook may be put together for survivors of abuse, translating documents, and learning more about disclosure notices and class action suits.

Compiling research and resources regarding college sexual assault definitely tested my ability to find information, teaching me tips and tricks that would have been hard to come by without doing the digging myself. This gave me the opportunity to enhance my note taking skills and increase the speed at which I can uncover pertinent information. I was also able to expand my knowledge on the subject of domestic abuse. Even though I do not plan on being involved in the area of Family Law directly, I think it is important that I have a wide array of skills and knowledge across the board. A lot of what we learn throughout our lives will help at some other point, and I think that would be even more true in the field of law.

When summarizing cases and uploading documents into the benefits database, I was able to work on my legal writing and take in the substance of cases more effectively. This helped me work on my ability to put legal documents into a format that is helpful to those that are not in the world of law but would still like to learn or research from the database.

When translating documents, I was able to improve my grasp of both English and Spanish, and the differences in the legal and technical terms of each language. This will be very useful in the long term, as I plan on working within the area of International Law.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity I have been given this past summer and school year and can't wait to use the knowledge I now possess to continue helping disenfranchised groups of people.