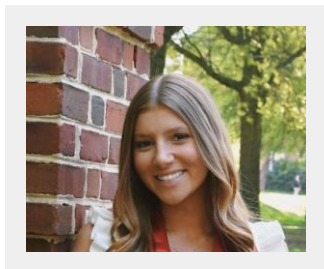




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jacqueline Bartha

Law School: Fordham University School of Law

Organization: Legal Aid Society NY

Update 1: I am extremely grateful to be an Equal Justice America fellow this summer, enabling me to pursue my work with The Legal Aid Society in the Juvenile Rights Practice Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit. The Juvenile Rights Practice defends the rights, needs, and interests of 90% of the children who appear in New York City Family courts on child welfare, parental rights, PINS, and juvenile delinquency matters. In addition to direct client representation, my role in the Special Litigation Unit has allowed me the opportunity to engage in impact litigation targeting system-wide abuses in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and educational systems. Our efforts to defend the rights and interests of juveniles drives systemic change and policy reform in NYC.

Update 2: An update on my summer position so far! A few weeks into my summer position with The Legal Aid Society and I have had the opportunity to work on some really important cases and issues in the Juvenile Rights Practice Special Litigation & Law Reform Unit. In addition to litigation, my unit also engages in legislative advocacy to advance systemic reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. We are currently working on multiple bills to be introduced in the New York State legislature which are aimed at supporting juveniles involved with the system and setting them up for more positive futures. In my role, I will be working to form a coalition in support of these bills and to advocate for their adoption by the legislature. Throughout these first few weeks, working at the nexus of law and policy, I have come to appreciate the tireless work done on behalf of the Legal Aid Society to address system-wide and pervasive issues in the juvenile justice and child welfare arenas.

Update 3: An update on my summer position so far! I am about halfway into my summer position with The Legal Aid Society, and I have had the opportunity to work on some really important cases and issues in the Juvenile Rights Practice Special Litigation & Law Reform Unit. In addition to litigation, my unit also engages in legislative advocacy to advance systemic reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. I have had the opportunity to observe trial attorneys in the Juvenile Rights Practice at retention hearings and child welfare proceedings, which has allowed me to see the direct services side of JRP's practice. Additionally, I am currently researching the disparate standards regarding removal to Family Court which are applied in juvenile



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delinquency proceedings based on age. New York is one of the only states with a waiver-down system, requiring that all cases involving charges against minors be initially filed in Criminal Court and then subsequently removed to Family Court. I'm looking at this system as a whole as well as disparate standards based on age to determine potential constitutional challenges to the current statutory scheme. This summer, working at the nexus of law and policy, I have come to appreciate the tireless work done on behalf of the Legal Aid Society to address system-wide and pervasive issues in the juvenile justice and child welfare arenas.

Update 4: Another update on my summer position so far! I am almost done with my time as a summer intern with the The Legal Aid Society and I have had the opportunity to work on some really important cases and issues in the Juvenile Rights Practice Special Litigation & Law Reform Unit. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to work on some interesting research and drafting on issues regarding juvenile delinquency. In addition to litigation, my unit also engages in legislative advocacy to advance systemic reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. I have had the opportunity to observe trial attorneys in the Juvenile Rights Practice at retention hearings and child welfare proceedings, which has allowed me to see the the direct services side of JRP's practice. I am currently drafting a memo on the disparate standards regarding removal to Family Court which are applied in juvenile delinquency proceedings based on age. This summer, working at the nexus of law and policy, I have come to appreciate the tireless work done on behalf of the Legal Aid Society to address system-wide and pervasive issues in the juvenile justice and child welfare arenas.

Update 5: I am sad to say that my summer with the Legal Aid Society has come to a close. These last ten weeks in the Juvenile Rights Practice Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit have been an amazing opportunity. In my time at Legal Aid, I was able to work on systemic issues in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. In my role, I conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on issues such as the disparate standards for removal to juvenile court for adolescent versus juvenile offenders as well as the availability of juvenile arrest records and its impact on young New Yorkers. Additionally, I conducted research on removal and waiver systems nationally to compare New York's standards with those of other states. I had the chance to work on a class action case this summer as well and assisted Legal Aid attorneys with discovery preparation and a motion for class certification. I am extremely lucky to have learned about juvenile delinquency and family law from amazing, dedicated attorneys. I have had the opportunity to observe trial attorneys in the Juvenile Rights Practice at retention hearings, suppression hearings, and child welfare proceedings, which has allowed me to see the direct services side of Legal Aid's practice. In addition to litigation and direct services, my unit also engaged in legislative advocacy to advance systemic reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The synchronous work on federal impact litigation and legislative reform taught me a lot about advocacy. I hope to carry these lessons with me as I continue to pursue a career in public interest. My experience here has been invaluable, the mentors I have met and clients I have been able to work with have all been amazing. This summer, working at the nexus of law and policy, I have come to appreciate the tireless work done on behalf of the Legal Aid Society to address system-wide and pervasive issues in the juvenile justice and child welfare arenas.