



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: The Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic

Update 1: My first couple of weeks as a summer law clerk at the Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic have been nothing short of amazing. First, the Health Justice Alliance is a medical-legal partnership with a variety of different programs. At the law clinic, I have watched my supervisors passionately advocate for our clients-- I even met a client on my first day! We visited her for her birthday (taking her food and balloons) and she was extremely pleased. It is these personal connections that make me really enjoy the work that the law clinic does. My supervisors have also allowed me to interview clients and do fact-finding investigations. I have really enjoyed how hands-on my supervisors have allowed me to be and I love watching how grateful our clients are that they are receiving effective legal advocacy. I really look forward to sharing the impact that we have in the weeks to come.

Update 2: I have learned so much since my last EJA Fellow update. First, I got to meet many of the other amazing people who are a part of the health justice alliance ("HJA") during a team lunch. I was able to learn about the wonderful work that the other HJA departments have been doing and are planning on doing. Moreover, I was able to do two more home visits and meet clients who seek support from the HJA law clinic. Much of my work in the past couple of weeks consisted of conducting prescreen interviews with clients and establishing a relationship with clients so that we can be able to best meet their needs. I have really come to learn that your initial interaction with a client goes a long way. It is the basis of the relationship and begins to establish trust. Thus, I have been working on developing my interpersonal skills so that my first interaction with clients is a memorable one.

Update 3: My last couple of weeks at the Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic have been amazing. From attending webinars and learning valuable information to meeting more amazing clients ... I have learned a lot. I have been doing a lot of fact-finding investigations and intake calls with clients to begin to understand the legal issues that they are facing. It has really been a learning experience to (1) hear a client tell their story and express what is going on (2) take that story and pull apart the different legal issues involved and (3) come up with a plan to begin addressing those issues. The most interesting thing I have done thus far is helping draft a demand letter to a landlord--it amazes me to see the change that happens when someone has legal counsel. Some stories are



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very unsettling to hear, and it really makes my day when the other attorneys and I come up with an effective plan to help all of our clients.

Update 4: This week at HJA was pretty slow, we did not get a lot of referrals which could be a good thing I suppose. We also did not do any home visits; it has been a very quiet week. Thus, this week I mostly conducted a lot of research. I researched the rights and obligations of public housing residents, as well as the obligations of landlords to tenants. I synthesized this information and produced research memoranda for my supervising attorneys to reference in the future. This was a great way for me to hone in on my legal research and writing skills and really learn more about the intricacies of housing law.

Update 5: It was really hard saying goodbye to my clients in my last week at HJA. They have come to trust me and I have been able to build meaningful relationships with them. A few key takeaways from HJA that I am grateful for that will be helpful in succeeding as a lawyer: 1. Empathy—when clients realize that I genuinely care and understand their concerns and am willing to listen and invest time into solving their problems it helps them to trust me more. When clients are able to trust you they open up to you more and it makes it much easier to help them. 2. Patience—I learned that clients, especially ones in this line of work, do not always give you all the information that you may need upfront. It may take them a minute to feel comfortable, and even more than that, for some people this may be their 3rd and 4th time telling their story, so it gets harder each time. Practicing patience is really important. 3. Consistency—consistently communicating with clients, updating them on the status of their case, and frequently checking in on clients is extremely important. They are often forgotten about and so ensuring them that you are still here and investing in helping them by consistently communicating with them also goes a long way.