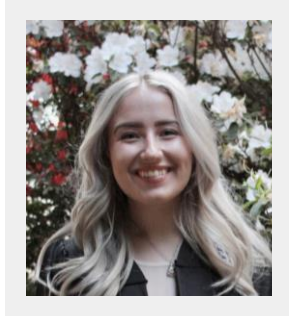




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Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: UNC School of Law

Organization: North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Update 1: I'm officially 3 weeks into my internship with North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence as a University of North Carolina School of Law student and, most importantly, we successfully got through Advocacy Days 2022! The opportunity to meet and speak with the staff of NC Senators and Representatives to share the current state of domestic violence in NC and how we can all fight to end it has been an unforgettable experience. As law students and attorneys, we often have to fight for justice on an individual level. To be able to advocate for everyone experiencing domestic violence with the help of our policy makers is both overwhelming and exciting. A lot of planning and effort went into this jam-packed day and to participate was an honor. My colleagues are unmatched in their commitment, and I hope I get to contribute to even a fraction of the important work they do every day.

Update 2: This EJA Fellow Update is a tough one. It is both a confusing and difficult time to be a law student, and even more so to be working in public interest law where passions, commitment, and values guide our efforts. However, knowing the implication that our laws and policies have on everyone impacted by domestic violence makes it easy to show up and do the work at North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence every day. I've had the pleasure of working on a variety of projects and topics over the last 5 weeks, including domestic violence fatality reviews, protective order long arm statutes, technology and gender violence, and domestic violence intervention programs. The research, policy updates, and relevant trainings and webinars all help me better understand the far-reaching effect of domestic violence and how we can fight to end it. I am grateful that my continued time as a University of North Carolina School of Law student helps me prepare for this work and that I always have more opportunities to learn from people on the front lines.

Update 3: This is my third EJA Fellow Update, and I can't believe I only have a few weeks left with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence before I return to being a full-time University of North Carolina School of Law student. Over the last couple of weeks, I've had the opportunity to dive deep into domestic violence fatality reviews in the state, how the information is presented, and what it might be able to tell us.



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Although the reports are always a difficult read, I'm constantly invigorated by the commitment across North Carolina in fighting to end domestic violence and make changes where gaps in service could help protect people. My goal with this work is to help review teams produce similar reports and to help present patterns and trends occurring across counties. Although it sometimes seems like there are a lot of actors involved in this fight, their effort is always necessary and appreciated. I'm excited to continue with this project even though I'm sad by how quickly the past seven weeks have flown by.

Update 4: For my fourth EJA Fellow Update, and my last week with the incomparable North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, I want to share about the incredible opportunity I had to participate in the National Network to End Domestic Violence's annual Tech SafetyNet Summit. It's really easy to think about domestic violence as physical, mental, emotional, or even financial abuse, but technology can and is often used to perpetuate it. Last week I had the chance to attend sessions on tech safety planning, using tech to communicate with survivors, and even a panel full of advocates in the technology industry. I was introduced to so much important information on how we can identify risks, the foundational principles of safety planning, and why transparency in technology can be so important to survivors. While I've gotten to do a lot of meaningful work this summer, it is the ability to learn from and be engaged with other advocates in the field that has really made an impression on me. I am forever grateful to share space with such dedicated individuals and organizations and I would be remiss to not acknowledge how incredible it has been to have had such opportunities built into my internship itself. I'll be back as a full-time University of North Carolina School of Law student soon, and I can't wait to bring this experience with me.

Update 5: This is my last EJA Fellow Update, and I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown by. I spent ten weeks of this summer working on policy and advocacy with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, getting to play a role in so many different projects that I believe in fully. The summer got off to a running start with Advocacy Day, during which I got to meet with the staff of North Carolina Senators and Representatives to discuss domestic violence in its entirety and how we can work together to end it. As the weeks went on, I had the opportunity to refresh my memory on civil procedure and long arm statutes that impact the granting of domestic violence protective orders, dig into Title IX regulations, new senate bills, state funding for domestic violence, and even attend webinars on what the Violence Against Women Act means for immigration. To close everything out, I even got to participate in the National Network to End Domestic Violence's annual Tech SafetyNet Summit, immersing myself in all of the ways that technology can help and hurt those affected by domestic violence. Most impactful, however, was the ability to spend the entire summer working on domestic violence fatality review team projects. Between reviewing all available DVFRT reports, meeting with team members and the state legislative and advocacy committee, and analyzing the patterns and trends of fatalities, I learned more than I ever could have imagined and left my fantastic colleagues with products that can hopefully be utilized and updated for years to come.



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I have learned that there are so many people committed to this work, even when it involves a lot of devastating information. I know that I don't have to be a lawyer to fight to end domestic violence, but I move forward in admiration of my boss who uses her law degree every day to sometimes push some buttons, but always fight for change. There is power in our passions and commitment, and I hope to emulate the incredible dedication that I've seen over the last ten weeks. As I return as a Master of Public Administration student this week and University of North Carolina School of Law student next week, I plan to take with me everything I've learned about domestic violence and the fight to end it, the understanding that advocacy happens all around me, and the perseverance to push through every boundary that stands in the way of a more just and equitable society. I am so grateful to have spent the summer with NCCADV and I hope to continue even a fraction of the incredible work they do as I move through the world.

The ability to do this work, learn from these experts, and fight to end domestic violence would not have been possible without Equal Justice America and their fellowship program. Helping law students commit to public interest work is no small feat, and your contribution can help expand that effort in really meaningful ways.