



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Ilana Gucovschi

Law School: Fordham University School of Law

Organization: Legal Assistance of Western
New York

Update 1:

I work at Legal Assistance of Western New York and upon being hired, was designated to work half of my time with the LawNY housing and tenant unit (based in Ithaca) and the other half of my time will be committed to working for ProBono Net, which is internally affiliated with LawNy. For my work with LawNy, which is my primary source of assignments, my first week tasks consisted of mostly trainings, legal informational videos, and orientations. My first assignment was a content project to create an information flyer and an attorney training guide regarding ERAP (Emergency Assistance Rental Program). LawNY provides assistance to tenants and to attorney volunteers who deal closely with ERAP for their clients so the information would be helpful on their website. Additionally, I was assigned to shadow a staff attorney as she worked on a housing case dealing with a breach of contract claim. Specifically, I was able to sit in on a call and work on drafting a discovery letter. For ProBono Net, I have been assigned to work as a live help operator for the free chat function that they offer. My first tasks were learning how to use the platform and getting accustomed to the type of information I will be providing. I completed three sessions related to practice chatting. I also trained and completed two tasks related to plain language writing.

Update 2:

I am an EJA fellow. Legal aid has never been as important as it is now. Please donate to EJA this summer.

Update 3:

I am aiding in the distribution of legal access to many. By working as a live operator on the Live Help NY chat platform, I am spreading justice to people who are in need. Especially related to housing, users who search for answers on Live Help NY are getting immediate answers and suggestions to their issues. The need for civil legal services is at an all-time high and many don't have access to the services that can best help them. I want to work to grow awareness of easy and free legal knowledge distributed online that can change the trajectory of many people's lives.



Entry 4:

The last week of my internship at Legal Assistance of Western New York proved to be the most fulfilling! I was able to truly help clients who yearned for assistance and otherwise would not have been able to have it without organizations like LawNY. I am appreciative of my experience this summer with all I was able to learn and those who were there along the way to help me. Please consider helping law students who work for great organizations.