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Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Update 1:

I'm excited to share that I recently completed my second year at Boston College Law School and began my summer legal internship at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. At WLC, I'll mainly be working on matters of law enforcement misconduct, an issue I first gained interest in early on in my undergraduate education. I look forward to gaining more knowledge and experience on this critical subject while working with a fantastic group of attorneys!

Update 2:

Time for my second EJA Fellow Update! I'm halfway through my legal internship with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and it has been a wonderful learning experience so far. I've been involved in matters related to policing and prisoners' rights and have had the opportunity to work on fascinating assignments to support the organization's litigation in those two practice areas. I have also had the opportunity of going to court to observe WLC attorneys in action. It has been incredibly interesting to see litigation in action and I am so thankful for the chance to work at an organization that allows me to be so involved with their matters.

Moving forward, I'm excited to continue my involvement with the police and prisoners' rights matters that WLC is currently involved in. I'm also hoping to get involved with some advocacy work and build my client interaction skills! Big thanks to Equal Justice America for providing financial support as I pursue my passion in civil rights law.

Update 3:

My internship at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs has been keeping me busy! I have been involved in several prisoners' rights and police abuse matters and it has been incredibly exciting to meet clients and learn how I can be an effective advocate for those who have been failed by our law enforcement institutions. I have been working on motions to further our litigation and continue to take



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advantage of opportunities to observe court proceedings. As an aspiring litigator, I have appreciated being able to watch litigators in action and witness the various forms of advocacy they engage in. I continue to be inspired by the people that I have been working with and can't imagine having a better experience this summer!

For those of you who may be curious about the work that WLC does in the criminal legal system, check out this report that the organization just released about the horrendous conditions that prisoners are facing in USP Thomson: <https://www.washlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Cruel-and-Usual-An-Investigation-Into-Prison-Abuse-at-USP-Thomson.pdf>

The prison system is broken beyond repair and there are millions who are currently suffering because of it. I hope to continue advocating for those who have been suffering and your support helps me do so.

Update 4:

My summer at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs is flying by! Recently, I've been working closely with the organization's police abuse team on a matter at the intersection of disability rights, housing, and police abuse. Through this matter, I've had opportunities to substantively interact with our client and co-counsel. That practical experience has been invaluable. Further, the opportunity to engage in such important work has solidified for me that I am committed to a career in working on issues of police abuse and advancing justice for those who have been failed by our criminal legal system. Police misconduct and violence is far too common in the United States, especially in cities like Washington, DC. With the use of Special Police Officers (contracted law enforcement that receive little training) now increasing in the District, the safety of our communities is increasingly at risk. I am motivated to continue fighting for justice and for reforming and abolishing the systems that cause such injustice. I am thankful to Equal Justice America for funding my summer internship.

Update 5:

A couple of weeks ago, I wrapped up my summer internship at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. The summer absolutely flew by! During the last few weeks of my internship, I had the opportunity to get involved with a handful of experiential opportunities, primarily conducting intakes with individuals who reported experiencing police abuse. I found that experience to be incredibly valuable. Not only did I learn skills that are central to working with prospective or current clients, but I also got to interact with members of a community that I aim to serve in my career. Through those interactions, I gained insight into the specific policing issues that those who are most impacted by police misconduct are concerned about.

I am incredibly thankful to have spent my summer at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. While at the organization, not only did I gain tons of experience in prisoners' rights and police abuse litigation and advocacy, but I got to work with the exact types of lawyers that I hope to become myself. The team at the organization is incredibly talented and generous and I witnessed so much of the brilliant and



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life-changing work that they do. From workers' rights to education justice to housing justice, so much work is being done by the folks at the Washington Lawyers' Committee to better the lives of DC residents.

This summer was exactly what I needed to revitalize me from the stresses of law school and excite me for the career that I have long hoped for myself. Being able to learn from attorneys doing the work that I care so deeply about was exactly what I needed at this stage in my law school journey. There is so much work to be done related to prisoners' rights and police abuse. There is so much work to be done to overhaul the criminal legal system and create an institution in which equity and justice prevail over all else.

I am grateful to Equal Justice America for providing me the support necessary to intern at the Washington Lawyers' Committee this summer. To support the endeavors of other public interest law students like myself, please consider donating.