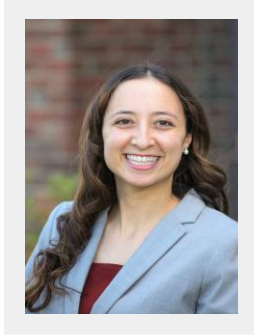




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Samantha Perlman

Law School: Boston College Law School

Organization: Southern Poverty Law Center

Update 1: I am thrilled to share that I started my summer legal internship last week at [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), a leading civil rights legal organization. It is an honor to work as part of the Voting Rights Team this summer and make a difference in our democracy. I cannot imagine a better hands-on learning experience to apply everything I am learning at [Boston College Law School](#).

Thank you to [Equal Justice America](#) for their support of my summer internship with SPLC and for selecting me as an [EJA Fellow](#). Learn more about SPLC's voting rights work at: <https://lnkd.in/emkXD87u>

Update 2: I am thoroughly enjoying my time as a EJA Fellow! My supervisor continues to welcome me into the voting rights team as a fellow attorney. I have conducted significant legal research and deposition preparation to support our upcoming cases. Importantly, I am reflecting on what type of attorney I would like to be and understanding how attorneys work in tandem with one another across various organizations. My experience continues to reinforce that I want to become a voting rights attorney and I would be honored to work at a place like SPLC.

Update 3:

Sharing a EJA Fellow Update: I am in person for my internship these two weeks in ATL. Meeting colleagues across our various practice areas and other interns is wonderful. I witnessed my first in-person deposition this week and am doing some upcoming travel for the organization which I am looking forward to experiencing. I also feel that my legal research and writing skills have greatly improved as I have received feedback from my supervisor.

Update 4: My summer internship with the Voting Rights Team at Southern Poverty Law Center continues to be an incredible experience. I was able to travel to Atlanta for the last few weeks and work directly with our co-



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

counsel members. I also did some travel on behalf of our organization to meet with local partners. What amazes me about a legal career in voting rights is the fast-paced nature of litigation and what an increasingly active area of law it is, particularly at the state level. I am grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting me in my internship.

Update 5: Concluding my time at SPLC was bittersweet! I am certainly leaving the experience a better attorney and much more knowledgeable about what litigation entails, how to partner with co-counsel attorneys and the role of cutting-edge legal research. I particularly learned a lot from observing the other attorneys – how did they interact with opposing counsel, the pacing and style of deposition preparation and the benefit of team meetings and how to divide up large work products. I also learned from the other legal interns. Although I was mostly operating in a remote capacity, seeing how other legal interns would approach specific legal memo writing and participating in the organization’s professional development workshops were a nice bolster to our daily tasks. The internship did confirm my interest in voting rights law long-term and the links between various aspects of the civil rights legal space. I am entering my third year with more hand-on legal training, understanding of the federal court system and expertise in voting rights law that is very impactful. Given the nature of our legal work, I am unable to provide many specifics about the contents of our litigation or the information regarding my day-to-day work. However, this was the first time I really felt like an attorney and when I was able to spend two weeks in person in Georgia directly, that directly enriched my experience. I also am more aware of the legal nuances when engaging with other attorneys, specifically in the deposition. I could also witness the impact of media on cases and how misinformation can spread about cases. I also am impressed with the level of breadth and depth of SPLC’s work portfolio, covering children’s rights, immigrant justice, economic justice, LGBTQ rights, criminal justice reform and combatting hate/extremism. It made me proud to work at an organization that is proudly fighting for the highest quality of life for community members and that SPLC is so well respected in the legal community.

Thank you to SPLC and EJA for this opportunity to pursue such a thought-provoking and timely internship where I too could help strengthen our democracy.