



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Neighborhood Legal Services Program

Update 1:

Thanks to EJA's Summer 2023 Fellowship, I am able to pursue my interest in public interest. This past week, I've had a chance to research more into D.C.'s municipal regulations regarding criminal record sealing and had a chance to write a motion for it as well.

Update 2:

I have had interesting, fulfilling opportunities these past two weeks at Neighborhood Legal Services Program. I have further looked into criminal record sealing statutes and how they different apply depending on the facts of the case, been part and lead client calls, and also have researched further about landlord-tenant law in D.C.

As I've gotten more chance to be involved in record sealing, I realize how many challenges and difficulties clients often face due to past records that are not reflective of who they are today, yet still act as a hinderance to them gaining meaningful employment and contributing to society. As such, I'm extremely glad that amazing attorneys, like the ones at NLSP, are able to assist these clients help forge a pathway to stability and security.

Also, I have had chances to participate in numerous, informative training courses in the past two weeks as well.

Update 3:

I'm so grateful for all the opportunities I've had to put my new legal skill into practice at Neighborhood Legal Services Program. This summer, I've had the opportunity to research various legal issues ranging from housing to social security benefits, draft motions to seal records, and join in on client meetings.

My favorite part of the summer so far has been working with our clients and see how a successful motion or letter has helped to improve their lives. As my work with NLSP comes to a close, I'm very appreciative of all the opportunities and learning experiences I've had this past summer, along with the great mentors and peers I've been able to meet.



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Update 4:

This summer, I got to learn so much during my 10 weeks with the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. I was able to experience and remember the importance of providing equal access to civil legal services, regardless of background, for all.

I had an opportunity to explore and learn more about many different areas of the law that affects us, ranging from landlord and tenant to criminal record sealing. Through it, I was able to get a better understanding of the laws and regulations, but also learned how they could negatively impact and marginalize people, and how legal services like NLSP could improve people's lives by resolving these issues. Also, I was able to develop skills ranging from research to client communication.

I am grateful for the opportunity to support and continue providing legal aid to those in need this summer. As I prepare to start my second year of law school, I am excited to further explore these issues.

Thank you, Equal Justice America, and NLSP for the opportunity and to continue to ensure equal access to the law for all.