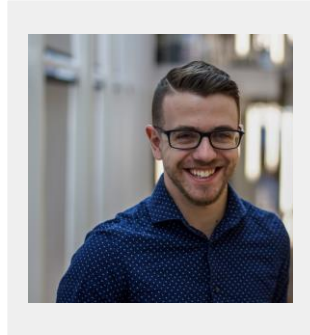




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Ian Leach

Law School: New York University

Organization: Oasis Legal Services

Update 1: I have officially been in my internship for a few weeks now at Oasis Legal Services and it's as good of a time as any to share that I was selected as an Equal Justice America Fellow for this summer. As part of my fellowship, I'll be sharing some updates about my work at Oasis over the course of the summer!

The past few weeks have been absolutely great. I've had a chance to get into a deep dive of the intricacies of LGBTQ+ asylum law and met my very supportive coworkers and fellow interns. I've also enjoyed some social time in Berkeley with my coworkers! I've really loved getting the chance to work with my clients, and I can already feel like I've learned so much this summer! Thank you to Oasis for such a great start to this summer, and thank you to EJA for helping support so many interns with funding, support, and community for public interest work!

Update 2: Time is zipping by at Oasis Legal Services and I've stepped into another enriching few weeks of my internship! This week, we dove into a comprehensive workshop on effective client communication and trauma-informed care, enhancing our ability to provide compassionate and effective support to our LGBTQ+ asylum-seeking clients. Grateful to have had the opportunity to interact with expert attorneys and mental health professionals during the session, and my knowledge and skills continue to deepen each day. Can't wait to apply these learnings in real-time client interactions! Thank you Equal Justice America for your support.

Update 3: Progress update from Oasis: While we're still awaiting decisions on a few cases, I've recently completed writing declarations for several clients, an intricate process that involved understanding and translating their experiences into legal narratives. The depth of their stories is profound and it's an honor to play a role in helping them navigate through their asylum-seeking journey. Every step forward we take brings a glimmer of hope and reinforces the essentiality of thorough and compassionate legal work in the asylum process. Thank you Equal Justice America for your support.



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Update 4: Exciting times, even from home! Participated in a virtual neighborhood gathering event this weekend with the Oasis team. Through online platforms, we discussed LGBTQ+ asylum issues, connect with potential clients, and engage with allies in the community. The energy, stories shared, and the collective virtual presence of the community was uplifting and underscored the essence of our work at Oasis - ensuring every LGBTQ+ individual seeking asylum finds a pathway to safety and acceptance. Thank you Equal Justice America for your support.

Update 5: My internship with Oasis Legal Services is gradually winding down and it's a bundle of reflections and heartfelt gratitude over here! Drafting legal documents, collaborating on case strategies, and being a part of a team advocating for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers - all from behind a computer screen - has been uniquely enriching and enlightening. A big shout-out to the Oasis team for seamlessly adapting to the remote setup, ensuring learning and impact were in no way compromised, and to Equal Justice America for supporting this incredible journey into public interest law! I look forward to taking my experiences and improving on them in the future in my public interest work.