

Dear Dan Ruben,

As an EJA Fellow this past summer, I had the opportunity to work for the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ), an organization that provides free legal services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault within the Greater Los Angeles Area. In this position, I had the chance to guide survivors through our justice system which can otherwise be considered both intimidating and inaccessible. I learned to work through the lens of trauma-informed lawyering as I assisted numerous individuals with navigating this legal system. This process allowed me to not only put my studies to practice, but it also added a new aspect to my training as a future lawyer in the field of public interest law.

In my role as a Law Clerk at LACLJ, I was exposed to many elements of public interest lawyering. I worked directly with a supervising attorney, who tasked me with my assignments throughout the summer. These assignments included client-facing interviews where I had the opportunity to conduct a one-on-one conversation while preparing complicated court documents for the client. In this process, I learned not only the process of preparing documents for court, but also how to best communicate sensitive and complex issues with a client. Additionally, I was assigned with the task of preparing multiple trial briefs as well as memorandums of points and authorities. Not only did the process of preparing these documents over the summer allow me to work on and develop my legal research and writing skills, but it also assisted with developing critical and poignant writing samples for my professional portfolio. Lastly, in this role, I was given the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers throughout the country. By virtually working alongside a few other law students interested in and committed to pursuing careers in the field of public interest law, I was able to learn from other brilliant students and begin developing future career goals for myself.

To say this experience was rewarding would be an understatement. My time at LACLJ was pivotal towards taking the steps in my legal career and it would not have been possible without the funding assistance from Equal Justice America. By funding summers for law students like me, EJA is helping to increase the number of future lawyers in the field of public interest law and allows for more individuals to have the opportunity to use their experience to help others and ensure everyone has access to our justice system. In this process, I also was able to fundraise **\$1,289** for EJA, to continue to allow future students to have a similarly rewarding experience as myself. I look forward to continuing to learn about how to help create ease of access to our justice system for survivors in poverty and the actions that can be taken to provide necessary safety mechanisms.

Thank you for the opportunity to have this experience this summer and for allowing me the opportunity to share my story in this manner.

Kindly,

Talia Horrow

UC Law San Francisco

JD Candidate, 2025