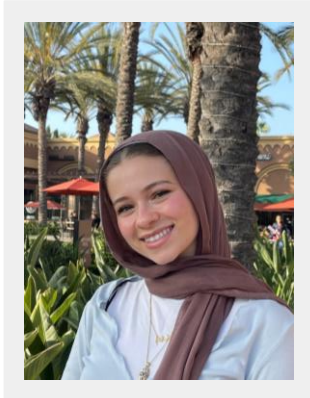




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Mariam Zahran

Law School: UCLA Law School

Organization: Public Counsel – Consumer
Rights and Economic Justice Program

Update 1: Thank you Equal Justice America for supporting me in my work with Public Counsel as a Law Clerk this summer!

Update 2: Can't believe I'm more than halfway through my time at Public Counsel!



Update 3: Wrapping up my time at Public Counsel and feeling so thankful for all the support and experiences I've had along the way!



Update 4: I can't believe my time at Public Counsel is coming to a close! Thank you to all of the incredible people I've met along way, and to Equal Justice America for supporting me along the way!

Update 5: Reflecting on my time at Public Counsel and feeling grateful to have spent a summer serving victims of economic injustice, all with invaluable support from Equal Justice America.



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Summer Position Summary

I spent the summer after my 1L year at UCLA Law School as a law clerk with the Consumer Rights and Economic Justice program at Public Counsel in Los Angeles. I along with three other law clerks were tasked with supporting our supervisors and performing various tasks including but not limited to conducting client intakes, sitting in on clinics, and helping prepare for trials when need be. During my time there, I gained a lot of knowledge and insight into the world of economic justice. I learned all about personal bankruptcy, foreclosures, debt collection, and the kinds of rules and laws California employs to protect financially disadvantaged individuals from these life-overturning events. I learned what it meant to be collections proof, and what the specific protections are and who they apply to. I was also able to get an inside look on trial preparation. My actual daily tasks varied.

The majority of my time as a law clerk at Public Counsel was spent communicating directly with clients. I conducted client intakes, reaching out to clients, asking them questions to determine their eligibility for our services, and gathering as much information I could about their situation to decide what the best next step was. I heard their stories and guided them through the legal aid process. Because of the time I spent doing this I felt that I was able to develop trusting relationships with some of my clients. It was very rewarding to be in a position where I could provide substantive comfort and assurance to a person under a lot of stress, and to work with inspiring and brilliant to bring about change that had a real impact on these individuals' lives. It was also especially exciting because I naturally ended up having my own caseload, and worked on a lot of projects independently. I became very comfortable working independently with a sole supervisor on various assignments, asking for help when necessary and communicating regularly. After client intake I also spent time working on a variety of assignments, ranging from trial preparation to researching policy to drafting demand letters with actual legal arguments. All in all, I learned a lot during my summer at Public Counsel and am grateful for the time I was able to spend there.