



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Manhattan Legal Services

Update 1: I have spent the first few weeks of my internship at Manhattan Legal Services jumping into housing litigation. Manhattan Legal Services' Tenants Rights Coalition complements the defensive work of their Right to Counsel practice because they pursue longer-term, affirmative litigation. Working with tenants' union organizers and other community partners, they bring suits against landlords on behalf of tenants to prevent displacement and combat gentrification. In my first few weeks, I took a trip to Washington DC for a Department of Housing and Urban Development listening session, have gone to housing court, and have attempted to learn some of the absolute basics of municipal and federal affordable housing law.

Update 2: I am a few weeks into my internship with Manhattan Legal Services' Tenants Rights Coalition, and I have been enjoying all the opportunities this position presents. I have been to housing court for some non-payment cases, working on doing some legal research for my first motions, and strengthening my client communication skills. I have appreciated the chance to work with curious, kind clients, and caring, creative attorneys.

Update 3: This past week I wrapped a final draft of my first filing. It was great to learn how to navigate client relationships, apply my legal writing skills, and get detailed feedback. I'm looking forward to doing more legal research during the second half of my summer.

Update 4: These past few weeks, I have my turning my attention to research about various federal and state level civil rights protections for tenants who have limited English proficiency. It is an interesting landscape that I'm excited to learn more about!

Update 5: Two weeks ago, I wrapped up my internship with Manhattan Legal Services with their Tenants Rights Coalition. I enjoyed meeting clients where they were, learning more about



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movement lawyering by attending tenant union meetings, and enhancing my legal writing skills. It was great to learn more about the affordable housing landscape in New York City and nationally. It liked the diversity of projects I got to engage in. From policy advocacy to managing individual client relationships, I had a great experience trying out diverse applications of my legal knowledge.

Manhattan Legal Services had a well-structured internship experience. There were weekly workshops where we could learn more about practical matters from attorneys, social workers, and other practitioners at different organizations. Sitting in on talks about how to enter direct legal services, navigating early career decisions, and how to have difficult conversations with clients was very helpful to think about personal aspects of being an attorney. I appreciated getting to know other attorneys within the organization, my fellow interns, and the larger Legal Services NYC structure.

I am grateful that I got such a broad and diverse array of experiences during my internship. It was a unique opportunity to learn about affirmative housing litigation with a passionate team of attorneys and paralegals. I was able to reflect on my larger career goals, what kind of attorney I wanted to be, and the work of advocating for affordable housing.

Thank you to the Equal Justice America Fellowship program for supporting my time at Manhattan Legal Services. Without your support, my summer of learning would not have been possible. Internships like these are crucial not just to provide needed legal services, but also to help train sensitive, competent attorneys oriented towards public service. I am grateful that I could spend my summer working so closely with tenants in New York, learning about the policy and legal landscape. It was a unique and valuable opportunity that taught me to appreciate the diverse skills that direct service attorneys need to develop. Thank you again for your ongoing support for aspiring attorneys like myself. I look forward to taking these lessons with me in the future.