



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## SUMMER 2024

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	Chicago-Kent College of Law
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Legal Aid Chicago

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#### **Update 1:**

Today marks the end of my third week as an Equal Justice America Fellow at Legal Aid Chicago! As a part of the Children and Families Practice Group, I'm lucky enough to get to work on both family law and education law projects. I'm learning so much and I love being able to serve my fellow Chicagoans. The need for civil legal aid is urgent, as 80% of those living in poverty who require civil legal services don't have access to it. I am proud to continue my education while working hard to close the access to justice gap.

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#### **Update 2:**

It's hard to believe I'm already halfway through my internship at Legal Aid Chicago with their Children & Families Practice Group, but time flies when you're having fun. I've had the opportunity to attend an education law conference, write several orders and motions, do many research projects and so much more. I am so grateful to be able to serve those in need AND continue my legal education.

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#### **Update 3:**

This week I was fortunate enough to attend the Family Regulation System Strategy Summit with my colleagues at Legal Aid Chicago! It was a very educational and inspiring day learning from attorneys across Chicago as we work to transform the family regulation system into one that truly works to protect the wellbeing of children and keep families together. I am so thankful I can continue my legal education while working to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable.

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#### **Update 4:**

I'm nearing the end of my internship with Legal Aid Chicago, and it is bittersweet to say the least. I have enjoyed so many learning opportunities this summer, including observing our attorneys argue a case under the Hague Convention last week. That's something I never thought I'd see, especially at my first-ever legal job, but I'm very fortunate to see skillful lawyers in action each day. This week I also conducted my first intakes and presented them at our Case



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Acceptance Meeting. I really enjoyed talking to clients and helping them access these critical services.

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## **Update 5:**

Given that my 2L year at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology starts next week, it's time for my final EJA Fellow update of the summer! My internship with Legal Aid Chicago's Children and Families Practice Group wrapped up a few weeks ago, and I can honestly say it was one of the most educational, informative, and enjoyable employment experiences I have ever had. By combining my interest in law with my passion for public service, I feel as though my legal education has taken on a new meaning. I am so lucky to have begun my legal career at an organization that has nurtured those loves and reinvigorated me for another year of school.

This summer I worked with the Family Law, Family Defense and Preservation, and Education Law teams. My favorite part of this summer was getting to learn from the incredible staff attorneys on these teams, as well as interacting with potential clients while conducting Family Law intakes. I also had the opportunity to engage with the greater legal community through attending an Education Law Conference and a Family Regulation System Summit. And of course, I had plenty of hands-on learning opportunities, like writing motions and parenting plans, presenting intakes, doing research, and so much more.

As a student, it is too easy to get caught up in stress and competition — both difficult, but necessary evils of legal education. But my time at Legal Aid Chicago helped me zoom out and see the greater picture. Although law school is incredibly challenging, the challenge is worth it to be able to help people seek justice and better their lives. So often, these people are women, children, and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. I am proud to have played a very small part in helping to close the access to justice gap, and as I progress in my legal education and look for other internship opportunities, I look forward to continuing this essential work.

Finally, shoutout to my incredibly patient and kind supervisor Jordan Crider, Esq. and the greatest intern team that ever lived.