



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	ACLU of New Hampshire

Update 1: I am excited to share that I received an Equal Justice America fellowship!

As a legal intern at the ACLU of New Hampshire, I am performing extensive legal research for a First Circuit appeal centering around a bar to asylum, with oral arguments set for July. I am excited to transform this research into a legal memorandum and to see how the arguments are addressed in court next month. I also had the opportunity to offer feedback on an amicus brief for another First Circuit appeal and to contribute to annual strategic planning efforts at this year's staff retreat.

I have already learned so much about substantive immigration law and impact litigation practices. At my first staff meeting, the team found out they had won a novel K-12 school censorship case, and the immediate tearful celebration made it obvious how passionate everyone here is about their work. It has been inspirational to continue to see how that passion is channeled into success.

Update 2: I am officially appearing as counsel in a First Circuit asylum appeal! The court granted the ACLU of New Hampshire's motion to file my appearance as a student attorney eligible to sit at counsel table and assist throughout oral arguments, which I will now do in addition to the research I have been performing for this case. The ACLU of New Hampshire also recently filed a motion based on a distinction I found in this research!

Update 3: In the past few weeks, I have continued preparing for oral arguments at the First Circuit, including by providing feedback on a moot argument and by reviewing hundreds of cases, pulling out the most relevant rules and analogous fact patterns.

While most of my time has been dedicated to this asylum bar appeal, I also dove into the recent Loper Bright decision to consider its impact in the immigration context and familiarized myself with the other recent Supreme Court decisions and their impacts on other ACLU priorities.



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Finally, I recently had the opportunity to attend oral arguments at the New Hampshire Supreme Court for a case in which the ACLU wrote an Amicus Brief. I learned a lot from reading the briefing, watching the arguments, and debriefing afterwards, discussing both the substantive and stylistic decisions that the advocates made.

Update 4: This week, I had the opportunity to appear before the First Circuit with ACLU-NH Senior Staff Attorney SangYeob Kim in an asylum and Convention Against Torture case. I was honored to sit at counsel table alongside Attorney Kim, taking notes on possible rebuttal arguments, the judges' questions and their implications for our case, and opposing counsel's responses. This court appearance represented the culmination of months of researching cases, combing through the record, discussing strategies, and drafting, revising, practicing, and polishing arguments. It was the highlight of my career so far.

Throughout my work on this case, the weight of what is at stake has remained at the front of my mind. Like many asylum-seekers, our client's life depends on the outcome of his case. Fighting for our client's right to stay in the United States and avoid torture and death in his home country has been a powerful and sobering experience. This work continues to affirm my commitment to a career of fighting for vulnerable populations.

Update 5: In my last few weeks at ACLU-NH, I had the opportunity to draft an amicus brief for a First Circuit Convention Against Torture case. This case involves an issue of first impression in the First Circuit, so the holding has the potential to shape CAT doctrine in this jurisdiction. Performing extensive research, outlining my arguments, writing a draft, incorporating feedback, polishing and proofreading, and ultimately seeing the brief filed in the First Circuit with my name included on the cover page has been a surreal experience. I enjoy legal writing, and the opportunity to put that skill to use on a real brief was beyond rewarding.

I knew that working for ACLU-NH was my dream job, but I never imagined that over the course of 1L summer, I would be appearing in the First Circuit, drafting an amicus brief, offering feedback during oral arguments, researching hundreds of cases to develop my own perspectives on novel and complex legal issues, and more. I have grown as an advocate thanks to the guidance of SangYeob Kim and the entire legal team and staff at ACLU-NH, whose passion and diligence continue to inspire me.

I want to thank ACLU of New Hampshire, Cornell Law School, and Equal Justice America for these invaluable experiences. If you would like to support public interest legal work, you can donate to EJA.