

Equal Justice America Fellow

Dear Executive Director Ruben,

First, I want to express my gratitude to you and Equal Justice America (EJA) for awarding me a fellowship this past summer. The support from EJA has been instrumental in making my summer work experience truly unforgettable.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to work at Lincoln Square Legal Services, Inc. as a Research Assistant to Professor Norrinda Brown. I'm incredibly grateful to have assisted her with research and other work related to the Right to Housing Clinic. The research I engaged in was not only eye-opening but also strengthened my commitment to becoming an attorney for the people. As I work toward becoming a lawyer, I aim to broaden perspectives and create spaces where diverse communities can embrace their uniqueness and feel safe wherever they call home. Professor Brown's focus on the lasting effects of discriminatory practices in Black neighborhoods highlights the reality of housing insecurity and how environmental conditions, like extreme heat, make these areas nearly uninhabitable. My role this summer was to fully support her groundbreaking research, which gave me the chance to reflect on how I can contribute to my community. This experience underscored the importance of legal scholarship in identifying gaps in current laws and advocating for reforms that benefit underserved communities.

Additionally, I've gained a mentor in Professor Brown, someone who continues to inspire me to stay dedicated to my purpose in the legal field.

Sincerely,

Mariama Campbell

Fordham University School of Law