



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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ORGANIZATION	Harvard Legal Aid Bureau

Update 1:

Happy to share that I'm working as Student Counsel in the Housing Practice Group at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau this summer. Thanks to everyone who has helped me get this far. Special thanks to the Loyola Committee for Public Interest Summer Stipends and the Equal Justice America team for their financial support. My journey to law school is a peculiar one but one day, I'll have enough time to talk about it. For now, I just want to thank everyone who made my coming to law school possible, whether by words of encouragement, advice, connecting me to resources or supporting me financially. I'm grateful for it all. Special thanks to Christopher Patrick Ford who saw my beginnings, from the time I was just a biology student at City Colleges of Chicago-Harry S Truman College. Huge thanks to Kate Mitchell, Marc Raifman, and Jenna Prochaska who have been amazing supervisors and mentors to me while completing my AmeriCorps service at the Health Justice Project. I cannot forget my former MLP-Illinois colleagues Kaaren Fehsenfeld and Kenya Burnett who have also been a huge source of encouragement and inspiration to me. Thank you all.

Update 2:

My internship has been going great thus far. I am in the housing practice group, and aside from working in the office, we work with a community organization called City Life. There, we provide clients facing eviction with brief advice and legal services. Sometimes, clients come when it's too late and at other times, they come when they are early on in their eviction process. Either way, we try our best to help them, by providing guidance on what's next for them in the legal process, or what forms they could file. I go to City Life every Tuesday night and thus far, it has been a great learning experience.



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Update 3:

As I get closer to the end of my internship, I am grateful for those who have supported me along the way and for the skills that I've learned during my internship. From drafting motions, conducting client interviews, communicating with opposing counsel, mediating discussions between tenants and opposing counsels in court, to providing brief services at a community organization and in court, I've learned a lot. Having difficult conversations with clients, hearing their stories and the difficult conditions they've experienced in their houses has been life changing. I've learned to be more compassionate but to think strategically about how to best support the client. I've learned about what is my role as an upcoming attorney and what is not my role. I've learned that I don't have to put up with clients who don't respect me or insult me during conversations. No matter how much you want to help a client, you cannot care for them more than they care for themselves. I am grateful to EJA and the financial support provided to me.

Update 4:

One of the best advices that I've gotten upon entering law school was to keep an open mind and not close my doors to learning opportunities outside the scope of what passions me. This is why I didn't hesitate to jump on the opportunity to serve as student attorney with the Harvard legal aid bureau this summer. I wanted more than sitting in a law office and doing legal research and writing. I wanted to interact with clients and gain courtroom experience, on top of refining my legal research and writing skills. My experience at HLAB has been nothing short of amazing. From drafting and filing motions to dismiss and stipulations for continuance, to reviewing settlement agreements, drafting a reasonable accommodation request, interviewing clients, to helping clients apply for emergency housing financial assistance and complete their annual recertification process, to communicating with opposing counsels by email and in court, I've learned a lot. I am grateful to the EJA team who's made this experience possible and to many other people who've encouraged and supported me along the way.