



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Yuki Kyu
LAW SCHOOL	New York Law School
ORGANIZATION	Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ)

Update 1:

This year, I have been selected to serve as an @equaljusticeamerica fellow, joining the fight to end inequity in the civil legal justice system. I have always believed that every individual, regardless of income or status, deserves access to justice. I am beyond grateful to now be in a position where I could be on the front lines of providing that access. I am thankful to be given the opportunity to work with Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ) this summer to ensure justice for people experiencing poverty through legal representation. I will be working on the child representation, re-entry, South Ward Promise Neighborhood, and tenancy programs. Additionally, I will also be learning about other areas the organization offers support in, such as human trafficking, divorce, debt relief, and veterans legal programs. In support of the cause, I have also set up a fundraising page. Any donation will assist the next generation of lawyers in offering pro-bono assistance to those unable to advocate for themselves in situations where silence is not an option. Link: <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/5551187>. I'm eagerly looking forward to sharing more updates about my work this summer and beyond 😊. #ejafellowupdate

Update 2:

Over the past week, I participated in and assisted with my first expungement legal clinic in New Jersey, helping pro se litigants seeking to clear their criminal records. It was truly rewarding to witness the hope and optimism of the clients I met. #ejafellowupdate

Update 3:

This week, I had the opportunity to work more closely with post-expungement clients by reaching out to those whose records have been expunged for one year or more to see how their lives have improved. It has been eye-opening to see how this process can change someone's life. Additionally, I have been participating in networking lunch events with attorneys and judges for the betterment of my career. #ejafellowupdate



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Update 4:

With this internship coming to an end, I am finishing up some projects with the post-expungement clients, reaching out for people in the SWPN program that might need additional help with their legal issues, and continuing with the complaint deficiency project to spot deficiencies from complaints that have been submitted by landlords - this project aims to provide justice for unrepresented clients. I am grateful to be given this opportunity to learn more and help the population in New Jersey with their legal issues. #ejafellowupdate

Update 5:

This week marks the end of my internship with Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ). Reflecting on my time here, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work primarily with the Expungement and South Ward Promise Neighborhood programs. I had the chance to interact directly with clients, helping them navigate the legal challenges they face. Additionally, I gained valuable experience working with the court system and conducted a research project on the expungement processing times in various NJ counties. This experience has taught me many things, but most importantly, it has honed my practical skills in client interaction. #ejafellowupdate