



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## SUMMER 2024

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	ACLU-DC

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### Update 1:

I just finished my first year at [New York University School of Law](#), and I am spending the summer with the [ACLU of the District of Columbia](#). This internship is a wonderful chance to engage in civil rights work, and improve my legal research and writing skills. The first week we jumped right into the work, and I began researching the policies that govern our clients at the DC jails. I then learned more about grievance policies and how the process affects client's abilities to potentially seek legal recourse for their mistreatment at the jails.

The following week was especially exciting, because I, along with the office's other summer intern, traveled to DC to be in-person! Throughout the week I worked on a new project, researching the potential connection between the First Amendment and the rights of individuals on supervised release. I was also able to participate in the office's yearly Bill of Rights ceremony. I am so grateful to [Equal Justice America](#) for their support, which provided me the resources to visit DC and the chance to develop a more well-rounded relationship with my colleagues at the start of my internship.

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### Update 2:

I am now halfway through my internship with the [ACLU of the District of Columbia](#), and each day has been a wonderful opportunity to learn and develop my skillset. My long-term project required me to search for caselaw in each circuit and tease out any nuances in their interpretation of the question at hand, which was a wonderful exercise in legal research and how to allocate my time while absorbing a fair amount of case law.



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I also appreciate that even in a remote setting, everyone in the Legal Department has made an effort to make me and the other intern feel like we are a part of the unit. We attend every legal department meeting and always have the opportunity to add to the department's discussions. We also had a chance to participate in the office's Legal Panel and hear from other practitioners what potential challenges the ACLU-DC might consider taking on.

I topped this week off with discovery review. After reading the client's complaint and hearing their story, I am so grateful that when blatant discrimination and injustice occurs, there are people, like those at the ACLU-DC, who are dedicated to raising challenges. Thanks again to [Equal Justice America](#) for making my work this summer possible.

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## Update 3:

As I progress through my internship with the [ACLU of the District of Columbia](#), I continue to grow both personally and professionally. One of my primary tasks has been developing my legal research skills and transforming my long-term research project into a comprehensive memo. This has provided a deep dive into the nuances of caselaw and sharpened my ability to manage extensive information efficiently.

In a new project, I immersed myself in an in-depth discovery review for one of our active cases. This involved organizing files, researching additional information about the defendant's policies that were not included in the initial discovery, and compiling my findings into a detailed memo. These activities have been invaluable in honing my analytical and organizational skills.

Another highlight was participating in meetings to discuss a potential new client. Witnessing a case from its initial intake and analyzing what factors could lead to a viable civil suit has been incredibly enlightening. It's fascinating to consider both the litigation strategy and the broader assistance we can provide to clients outside of the courtroom.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the ACLU-DC's mission of challenging discrimination and injustice. Special thanks to [Equal Justice America](#) for making this enriching experience possible.

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## Update 4:

As my internship with the [ACLU of the District of Columbia](#) continues, I'm excited to share some recent developments. I successfully wrapped up my extensive memo for my long-term research project and completed the discovery review. Additionally, I had the opportunity to cite check a submission for our legal team, which significantly improved my Bluebooking skills.

Thanks to [Equal Justice America's](#) generous stipend, I was able to travel to DC again and work in person for a few days. It was wonderful to see the team face-to-face and to attend an in-person mediation session. Observing the dynamics between the mediators and attorneys, and understanding the meticulous consideration that goes into each step of the process, was incredibly insightful.

I feel fortunate that the ACLU-DC is so invested in my professional development. My supervisor, [Joy Holden](#), organized a training session to fine-tune our legal research skills and shared effective tactics from her experience. I also attended engaging panels on the potential role of AI in the future of legal work, a topic I'm eager to explore further in my coursework next semester at [New York University School of Law](#).

I'm grateful for these enriching experiences and the opportunity to contribute to the ACLU-DC's important work. Thank you again to Equal Justice America for making this possible.

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## Update 5:

At the beginning of August I wrapped up my summer internship with the [ACLU of the District of Columbia](#). This summer provided a unique opportunity to immerse myself in meaningful legal work while learning from passionate advocates committed to justice. I'm grateful for the invaluable experiences that have shaped both my personal and professional growth.

Throughout my time at the ACLU-DC, I focused on refining my legal research and writing skills. From drafting memos to cite-checking submissions and engaging in discovery review, each task presented an opportunity to sharpen my analytical abilities and develop a stronger understanding of the nuances within the law. I am thankful to have been in an environment where questions were encouraged, and the attorneys were eager to teach. The work often pushed me beyond my comfort zone, but it also allowed room to grow and learn, which was both challenging and rewarding.

Beyond the technical skills, I gained an appreciation for the dedication required to balance multiple



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responsibilities in a small organization like the ACLU-DC. I saw firsthand how hard-working attorneys manage a broad range of duties, from legal research to client interactions, all while maintaining a steadfast commitment to the organization's mission. It was inspiring to witness the behind-the-scenes efforts that go into advocating for civil liberties and social justice.

Moving forward, I will carry with me the legal research and writing skills I've developed, but more importantly, I will hold onto the spirit of kindness, community, and mentorship that defined my experience here. The attorneys and staff at ACLU-DC showed me the importance of fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels empowered to learn and contribute. I aspire to bring this same cultivating spirit to my future work, ensuring that I approach each opportunity with empathy and a commitment to creating a positive impact.

I am immensely grateful to [Equal Justice America](#) for supporting my work this summer and to the ACLU-DC for providing such a dynamic and nurturing space to learn. This experience has solidified my passion for public interest law, and I am excited to see where this journey will take me next.