



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## SUMMER 2024

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	Rutgers Law School - Camden
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Disability Rights New Jersey

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#### Update 1:

I am so excited to announce that I have returned to Disability Rights New Jersey, this time with a different role! I have joined the legal team as a summer intern, and I am rounding out my second week. Disability Rights New Jersey does excellent work within the disability community, with their teams focused on community inclusion, institutional rights, juvenile justice, and various other areas. In this last two weeks, I have really been immersed in the work that Protection and Advocacy attorneys are tasked with. Between discovery document review and research assignments in the policy realm, I have already been exposed to multiple areas of focus at DRNJ, and I have yet to see it all! I have many things coming up on my calendar, but to name a few, I will be going with my supervisor to court, as well as visiting a developmental center and a psychiatric hospital. I am looking forward to continuing growth at DRNJ this summer, and I couldn't be more thankful for how Rutgers Law School has prepared me for this experience.

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#### Update 2:

Today marks halfway through my internship at Disability Rights New Jersey! In the last few weeks, I have done several research assignments, and I am now transitioning into larger memorandum writing assignments. In addition to sharpening my legal research and writing skills, today I had the opportunity to go with the monitoring team to Vineland Developmental Center. I have included some of the grounds photos from today. I am thoroughly enjoying gaining experience on both the legal and monitoring side of DRNJ, as I get to see firsthand the clients we are assisting on a daily basis. It is incredibly meaningful to be able to see the world within which I am assisting as an intern from all angles. I have a few more monitoring visits coming up this summer in different settings, and I look forward to experiencing more population areas that DRNJ serves within the second half of my internship! #EJAFellowUpdate Rutgers Law School Equal Justice America



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## **Update 3:**

It is surreal to think that we are 3/4 of the way through my summer internship with Disability Rights New Jersey. I have spent the last two weeks writing memorandums for the Institutional Rights team as well as the Youth Practice Group. I am greatly enjoying diving into different legal issues within the different teams, gaining exposure in several areas. In addition to the memorandum writing, I have gone on three more monitoring visits to Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, and Ancora Psychiatric Hospital. I am fortunate to have an excellent work environment with guides from the investigations and monitoring teams to educate me on both developmental centers and psychiatric hospitals, answering any and all questions I have. I have felt extremely supported in my work environment during this time, gaining experience in the field while also sharpening my legal research and writing skills. I look forward to rounding out this summer!

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## **Update 4:**

Next week is my last week at Disability Rights New Jersey, so it is about time for my fourth EJA Fellow update! Over the last week I completed a memorandum for the Institutional Rights team, diving deeper into how to legally research a question that may not have a clear cut answer. Though challenging, this project had me step out of my comfort zone of research I have done in the past. I enjoyed the challenge, and I have received feedback from the institutional rights team to strengthen this work as a writing sample. My research and writing skills are seeing great improvement over this summer, especially within this project.

Since my last update, I have sat in on two virtual oral arguments with our Youth Practice Group! Being able to experience attorneys in this setting was extremely eye opening, and much different than what I had anticipated. I am thankful that the Youth Practice Group has included the interns on these calls to make sure we are seeing various areas of the law, even if we cannot be at court in-person. These hands-on experiences continue to teach me more about professionalism, preparedness, and client advocacy each time I sit in on them, and I am excited to continue working on these skills as I grow in my career.

Lastly, DRNJ hosted their annual summer staff event yesterday! As our office is mostly remote, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to see our staff in person and connect with them. Building relationships over the screen can be tough, but DRNJ has done a great job at making their interns feel connected to their staff!

It has been a wonderful summer thus far, and I am looking forward to what next week will hold.

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## **Update 5:**

Now that school is starting, it's time for my final update of the summer!

In the last few weeks of my internship, I was able to work on various projects for the institutional rights team as well as the youth practice group. I completed a memorandum for the youth practice group, diving into a new focus area! I was thankful for the opportunity to explore the youth practice work before my departure, as I had not done any prior research for the team. The



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youth practice group was the last focus area at DRNJ that I had not touched over the summer, and I am glad to say I finished my internship and experienced all of the areas Disability Rights New Jersey offers.

Also, within the days leading up to my departure, I was able to do more client-advocacy work, going with our investigations and monitoring team on site visits to both Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and Ann Klein Forensic Center to meet with current and potential clients. Meeting with clients in these facilities and hearing their experiences has truly transformed my approach on client interaction. The in-person experiences I had over this summer were truly invaluable to my professional development and have instilled in me a newfound way of thinking and open-mindedness to areas of law I had not considered prior to this summer.

My summer experience at Disability Rights New Jersey was nothing short of wonderful, and I am abundantly thankful for the opportunity to have gained exposure to various practice areas within the field of disability law. I have sharpened my legal research and writing skills through memorandum research and writing for various teams. I have gained confidence not only within my writing skills but within my interpersonal skills as well, specifically when it comes to connecting with current and prospective clients and building a professional relationship. Disability Rights New Jersey does an incredible job of exposing interns to not only the research and writing, but to the advocacy portion of the legal field, which was instrumental to my success over this summer. I am glad to leave this summer with experience in topics such as Medicare and Medicaid, IDEA laws, Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Home resident rights, the rights of those in Psychiatric Hospitals, and more. I look forward to using all of these different projects and topics to propel me into figuring out where I fit best in the legal field!