



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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LAW SCHOOL	Thurgood Marshall School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Equal Justice Center

Update 1: ♦ Support Equal Justice and Empower Vulnerable Communities! ♦

I'm excited to share that I am an Equal Justice America (EJA Equal Justice America) Fellow this summer, interning with the Equal Justice Center (EJC) in Texas.

About My Work:

At EJC, we provide legal assistance to vulnerable immigrant populations in Texas who face injustices in:

- ♦ Labor and Employment
- ♦ Employment Rights
- ♦ Wages and Hours
- ♦ Employment Discrimination
- ♦ Sexual Harassment

Despite the similarity in names, Equal Justice America and Equal Justice Center are distinct organizations. However, both share a commitment to justice and equity.

Equal Justice America (EJA):

EJA has sponsored fellowships for over 5,500 law students from more than 100 law schools. Our fellows provide crucial assistance to low-income clients navigating the civil justice system. EJA offers summer fellowship grants up to \$5,000 for law students working full-time in civil legal aid or civil rights organizations.

Equal Justice Center (EJC):

EJC is a non-profit law firm that empowers low-wage workers and communities to achieve fair



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treatment in the workplace and society. Our key initiatives include:

- ◆ Legal Representation: Helping recover unpaid wages and combat workplace injustices.
- ◆ Transnational Worker Rights Clinic: Partnering with the University of Texas Law School to provide practical legal experience and representation to low-wage transnational and immigrant workers.
- ◆ DACA Assistance: Providing legal aid to undocumented students and graduates applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), enabling them to secure better jobs and futures.
- ◆ Systemic Reform: Advocating for policy changes that strengthen employment rights and access to justice.

Thank you for your support and for standing with us in the fight for equal justice!

Update 2: Enthusiastic to announce my first EJA (Equal Justice America) Fellowship update! Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of working with the Equal Justice Center (EJC), a non-profit law firm and employment justice organization, as their summer legal intern. The EJC, with offices in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio, provides vital legal help and advocacy throughout Texas, empowering low-income families, workers, and communities to achieve fair treatment in the workplace and justice system.

During my time here, I've been assigned several cases, engaging with clients, conducting research, and filing legal documents for both local and federal court proceedings. It's been incredible to see how my experience as an international social worker/caseworker aligns with my 1L Federal Rules of Civil Procedure course. The EJC team has been immensely supportive, offering tremendous insight in just a few weeks.

This week, I was assigned a new case, brand new to the EJC, and I am eager to work on it from start to (hopefully) finish. The EJC's commitment to justice, whether through recovering unpaid wages, operating the Transnational Worker Rights Clinic, or assisting with DACA applications, is truly inspiring. I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to their mission and develop my legal skills.

Update 3: I'm thrilled to share another update from my Equal Justice America (EJA) Fellowship! I am thoroughly enjoying my internship at the Equal Justice Center (EJC). It's been an honor working alongside Katy Cook, another legal intern and fellow EJA Fellow. Together, we've engaged in phone calls, interviewed clients, and tackled cases from the ground up. Cook's fluency in Spanish has been particularly inspiring, highlighting a crucial skill I need to develop for my professional future. This experience has shown me the importance of multilingual capabilities in the legal field and has motivated me to work on this goal. In Columbus, my Amharic and Somali language skills were valuable, now as a Texan, it's time to adapt.

One of the highlights of my internship so far has been learning and drafting my first Motion to



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Consolidate concerning twenty cases. This task has been challenging yet incredibly rewarding, providing me with valuable hands-on experience.

The EJC team continues to be a source of immense support and inspiration. Their commitment to justice and dedication to their clients is truly commendable. I am excited to continue my work here, learning and growing alongside such an amazing team and fellow colleagues.

Thank you, Equal Justice America, for this incredible opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Equal Justice Center and develop my legal skills.

Update 4:

As I approach the end of my legal internship at the Equal Justice Center, I am excited to share my EJA Fellow Update. The decision to accept a remote summer internship has not only shaped my summer but has also influenced my long-term career aspirations.

Currently, I am in St. Andrews, Scotland, participating in a summer study abroad program at "The Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews: School of The Trial." This experience has been incredibly enriching, as I delve into both mock trial practices and courtroom advocacy.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to complete an online internship while also enrolling in the Law and Artificial Intelligence course. This experience has expanded my understanding of how technology can be integrated with the legal field and has sparked a deep interest in exploring this intersection further in my career.

Throughout my internship, I have gained valuable skills in client engagement, memo writing, and time management. Now, at St. Andrews, I am eager to apply these skills in mock trial settings and develop my advocacy skills in the courtroom.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me on this journey. I look forward to continuing to grow and share more updates with all of you!

Update 5:

As my summer comes to a close, I want to express my immense gratitude for the support I've received throughout my Equal Justice America (EJA) Fellowship with the Equal Justice Center (EJC) in Texas. Despite the challenges posed by the recent hurricane, I am thrilled to start my 2L year tomorrow, full of excitement and appreciation for this past summer's experiences.

Throughout my internship, I worked on cases assisting vulnerable immigrant populations facing injustices such as wage theft, employment discrimination, and sexual harassment. My time at EJC was profoundly rewarding, and I'm proud to have contributed to their mission of fighting for workplace justice. The support and guidance from the team were invaluable, and I found myself deeply inspired by their unwavering commitment to justice.

One of the highlights was drafting my first Motion to Consolidate for twenty cases—a challenging yet highly fulfilling task that allowed me to grow as a legal professional. I also had the opportunity to engage with clients, conduct legal research, and file court documents. My



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experience as an international social worker aligned perfectly with the legal skills I've developed, and I now feel more confident in my ability to navigate complex legal issues.

Additionally, working alongside fellow EJA intern Katy Cook, whose Spanish fluency inspired me to continue developing my own language skills, was a true privilege. My time in Texas has reinforced the importance of multilingualism in the legal field, pushing me to further hone my Amharic and Somali while also improving my Spanish.

As I transition back to school, I carry with me the lessons learned from both my work with EJC and my recent experience at "The Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews" in Scotland. There, I enhanced my trial advocacy skills while studying the intersection of law and artificial intelligence.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported my journey this summer. The opportunity to contribute to EJC's critical work has been an incredible honor, and I'm excited to bring everything I've learned into my second year of law school.