



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| NAME | Anna Pohl |
| LAW SCHOOL | University of Chicago |
| ORGANIZATION | Kane Clinical Center |

Update 1:

So fortunate to be spending this summer working with the Employment Law Clinic. Thank you, Equal Justice America, for making this possible. This week I had the opportunity to interview clients, write settlement letters, and take actionable steps to represent underserved clients.

Update 2:

Thank you to EJA for supporting my work at the Employment Law Clinic in Chicago. This week, I assisted with settlements and an appeal. To promote future legal aid workers, donate so EJA can continue their worthwhile mission!

Update 3:

Thank you to EJA for supporting my work at the Employment Law Clinic in Chicago. Recently, we advanced settlement proceedings and provided legal assistance to pro de plaintiffs. To promote future legal aid workers, donate so EJA can continue their worthwhile mission!

Update 4:

This week marks the end of my summer with the Employment Law Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School. Over the last eight weeks, I had the opportunity to assist pro se plaintiffs in their employment discrimination claims. I am incredibly grateful to the clinical staff for my experience this summer. This work was significant to my own legal growth, but also provided meaningful assistance to clients who cannot afford an attorney. I owe enormous gratitude to Equal Justice America for making this possible. I was fortunate to be named an Equal Justice America Fellow, which enabled me to pursue legal aid work this summer. To promote future legal aid workers and support Equal Justice America's mission, I encourage you to donate.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Update 5: I ended my internship during the last week of July, and in the time since then I have had the opportunity to reflect on my experience. From a technical standpoint, my internship has provided me with crucial practice in skills that are central to the work of an attorney: I was guided through client interviews, I provided procedural advice, I drafted briefs and replies, and I created emails for clients. Beyond these skills, I am also left with an appreciation for the need of attorneys in the legal aid space. Providing legal support to the clinic's clients required a detailed, careful, trained approach. I have a newfound dedication for encouraging young lawyers to pursue opportunities - either as a pro bono matter or full-time - that will help fulfill the need for lawyers in this space. I remember, and can empathize with, the frustration and confusion the pro se plaintiffs I worked with expressed. As law students, we can help alleviate this distress and help to deliver justice.

On the last day of my internship, I talked with two of our clients to ensure there were no remaining loose ends for us to tie. One of our clients had recently received a settlement check, and we had assisted the other with a motion to dismiss his claim. Both of the clients expressed gratitude for our help. It was an incredible way to end the 8 weeks of work. Although the facts and the people we worked with varied tremendously from case to case, there was a consistent sense of relief and appreciation. Walking these individuals through the legal process helped me understand how confusing, and even scary, it would feel. Oftentimes, our clients were reaching out in one of their worst moments – I am enormously grateful that I had the opportunity to alleviate some of their stress by providing guidance, research, or support. As a law student, we can become so focused on the law itself, on the experience of the lawyer, and of the minute details or policies that our classes and our coworkers discuss. Because this internship allowed me so much time working directly with clients, I can better remember to center the client's experience.