



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid Chicago

Update 1: I am so excited to be serving as an EJA Fellow at Legal Aid Chicago this summer. I have already learned so much in my first two weeks! I have spent much of my first weeks observing the attorneys on my team – in court hearings, intake calls, and case acceptance meetings. It has been really cool to see a day-in-the-life of a legal aid attorney, especially because I hope to go into legal aid after law school! I have also had the opportunity to help the attorneys out on some of their cases, which has been the highlight of my first couple of weeks. Specifically, I have conducted research to support our clients' cases and drafted memos to share this research with the attorneys on my team. Additionally, I have drafted clients' Petitions for Child Support and Petitions for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities. I am currently drafting a client's Marital Interrogatories and Request to Produce and completing another client's Financial Affidavit. I am very much looking forward to all the projects to come, as I know I still have so much to learn. I am most looking forward to building relationships with my colleagues and clients over the course of the summer.

Update 2: I have been continuing to love my internship at Legal Aid Chicago. In the last couple of weeks, I have had more and more opportunities to connect with and form relationships with clients. I observed and helped the attorneys on my team in conducting intakes with potential clients, and in the next couple of weeks, I will have the opportunity to start conducting intakes on my own. Additionally, I had the opportunity to accompany my supervising attorney to court and observe our client's Order of Protection hearing. It was very interesting to observe, and I learned a lot from the experience. I have more court hearings on my calendar in the next couple of weeks, and I am really looking forward to these opportunities to observe. Finally, I have continued to be given challenging and exciting writing assignments which have helped me to improve my legal writing skills. I have been busy drafting Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage, Petitions for Child Support, Petitions for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities, Disposition Orders, Side Orders, etc. In the next couple of weeks, I will be working on drafting an Agreed Restraining Order, Subpoena Request, and Clients' Affidavits. I am really looking forward to all the exciting projects to come in these next couple of weeks.



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Update 3: It has been very busy for me here at Legal Aid Chicago these days, and I am certainly learning a lot! I have started conducting my own intakes with clients, which has been great. I have already conducted three intakes and have more scheduled in the coming weeks. I have really loved having the opportunity to connect more with clients and take on a larger role in their cases. I have also been busy helping the attorneys on my team with drafting court motions and orders. I am feeling more comfortable and confident in preparing these documents now. I definitely feel that I have a better understanding of family law and what it would look like to be a legal aid attorney who focuses in family law. I am looking forward to conducting more intakes, taking on more research and writing projects, and observing my supervising attorneys in court in my last couple of weeks here. I am already eagerly thinking about how I can stay connected with Legal Aid Chicago after my internship ends. I am excited for opportunities to volunteer at the Legal Aid Chicago community clinic that is located near my law school in the Fall.

Update 4: It is hard to believe that my internship at Legal Aid Chicago will be wrapping up next week. It has gone by so quickly. I am very proud of all I have learned and accomplished over the summer. I have taken on many new and challenging assignments. For example, I recently wrote a research memo on the legal basis for our disabled client to receive a larger share of marital assets in her divorce case. It was really cool to see how my legal research and writing skills can be used to make a difference in someone's life. I am really looking forward to my last week at Legal Aid Chicago because I have some exciting things on my calendar. I will have the opportunity to go to court twice next week to observe my supervisor in two Order of Protection hearings. Both hearings are for clients I have met and helped with over the summer, so these hearings will be extra meaningful to me. We also have our staff summer outing next week, so I am looking forward to spending time with my fellow interns, supervising attorneys, and the rest of our team and celebrating all our great work this summer.

Update 5: I had a wonderful internship experience at Legal Aid Chicago this summer, and I am so grateful for the generous support of Equal Justice America. The highlight of my internship experience was the clients I served. I loved building relationships with clients throughout the summer, and supporting and assisting them in any way that I could. Many of the clients I worked with were survivors of domestic violence, so it was very important for me to be trauma-informed in my work with them. Although I played only a small part in their cases, I am so honored and grateful that I was able to help in their process of finding safety and stability. Another highlight of my experience was learning. I learned so much! I strengthened my legal research and writing skills; I improved my client and court advocacy skills; and I gained knowledge and experience in family law. One of the best parts of this internship experience was that I got to see first-hand what a career in public interest law could look like for me. I got to watch the attorneys I worked with in-action and imagine myself in their shoes someday. I am leaving this internship experience feeling excited and energized to pursue a career in public interest law. I am already looking forward to my 2L summer public interest internship and public interest post-graduate fellowships. Another wonderful part of my internship experience was the strong mentorship that I received from the attorneys I worked with. I learned so much from all the attorneys that I worked with this summer, and I am looking forward to staying in touch with them throughout the school year. They all offered so much advice and support as I navigated my internship and



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asked questions about my next steps. I also built wonderful relationships with my co-interns from other law schools. Many of them go to nearby Chicago schools so I am looking forward to staying connected with them throughout the school year. I think we will be great support for each other as we all find our way in the public interest world. I know that this internship experience would not have been possible without the generous support of Equal Justice America, and I am so grateful to have been selected as a Fellow this summer. Thank you!