



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## SUMMER 2024

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

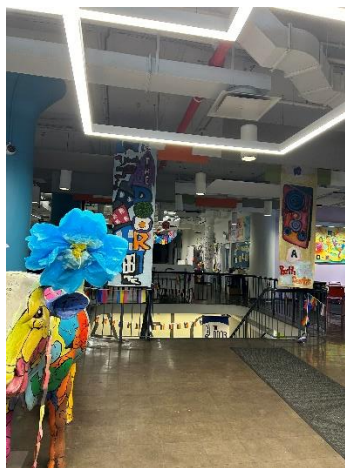


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<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	The Door – Legal Services Center

#### Update 1:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two weeks here at The Door - A Center of Alternatives Legal Services Center! The majority of The Door's legal work surrounds immigration. Our first week of trainings included topics from Immigration 101 to Procedural Arguments in Immigration Court.

While the immigration teams are doing some amazing work, I am working as an intern on the Civil Legal Services Team. In the first two weeks, I wrote a memo about bankruptcy, researched pregnancy discrimination in employment, helped a client prepare documents for response to discovery in a housing case and more! By the end of the week, I will have shadowed my supervisor on NINE different meetings with clients. Most clients at The Door are young people ages 12-24. Having this much client interaction in the first two weeks of my time here has been an amazing experience, and I can't wait for the rest of the summer!





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## **Update 2:**

Now that training is over, the past two weeks at The Door have been filled with client work. Since my last update, I led an intake interview with support from my supervisor, worked with a client to prepare over 20 documents in response to a discovery request, and drafted 5 letters explaining the state of the law to various organizations or companies for a few different clients.

The work I am doing this summer allows me to explore many different legal issues while helping young people live the lives they want to live. Direct Service work isn't for the weak, but the rewards are well worth it. I can't wait to continue this work during my next two years at University of Michigan Law School.

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## **Update 3:**

It is hard to believe that my time The Door is over halfway done! This week I had a mid-summer review and it was great to discuss with my supervisor about the work I have done so far (over eight projects!) and what the rest of the summer will look like (more research and writing, and more client intakes!). Being able to work on cases with varying legal issues has helped me on my journey to figure out what I might be interested in practicing long-term.

This week also brought an opportunity for all the legal interns to observe a Juvenile Detained Docket in Immigration Court. It was very informative to observe a Door attorney representing clients and experience the courtroom. Thanks to Judge ul-Haq for speaking with us about his path to becoming an Immigration Judge and asking us about our futures as lawyers.

As we head into the last four weeks of the internship, I am more excited than ever to get back to Michigan Law and continue my studies!

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## **Update 4:**

Two weeks left of my summer internship at The Door's Legal Services Center means it is time for my fourth EJA Fellow Update! As the summer comes to a close, I am reflecting on all that I have learned this summer. I've gained not only valuable legal skills like real-world research and writing, interviewing clients, and case management, but I have also learned lessons about balancing compassion for a client's situation with deadlines set by the court and opposing counsel. Every day here has taught me something new about the law and about myself, and I could not have asked for a better experience.

Last week, I was able to assist with the Runaway and Homeless Youth Clinic here. This is a weekly clinic that started out as a space for youth with civil legal questions who were not yet represented by a lawyer. While the RHY Clinic is still offering legal advice, the young people who attend are mostly French-speaking and originally from West Africa, asking immigration questions. This was a fascinating experience and a wonderful program that The Door provides.

During my final two weeks, I hope to finish up any outstanding projects and start preparing for my second year at Michigan Law!



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## **Update 5:**

As I prepare to head back to Michigan Law for my 2L year, it is time for my final EJA Fellow Update! My summer at The Door's Legal Services Center was one I will always remember. Here's the summer in numbers: drafted six letters for clients to various agencies, conducted five client intake interviews, wrote four legal memos on bankruptcy, pregnancy discrimination, Title IX, and deposition practices, observed court 2 times, and had one awesome summer (corny but I couldn't think of anything else to put here).

Under the guidance of my supervisor, Michael Williams, I have learned how to manage a full caseload, work with young people who may not be reliable when it comes to attending appointments, and many other small things about being civil legal services lawyer. I also want to thank Gina Starfield and Grace Day for being amazing intern coordinators. Thanks again to Equal Justice America for supporting me financially during the summer.

Working at The Door this summer has shown me that this is the work I want to do. Interacting with young people and impacting their lives is so fulfilling and I can't wait to continue doing it over the next two years and beyond!

Thanks for following along with my journey this summer!