



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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| ORGANIZATION | Brennan Center for Justice |

Update 1: This summer I am working at the Brennan Center as a Legal Intern with the Democracy Program. I am appreciating the process of learning about the high-level impact the Brennan Center can have as well as the individual ways that we can assist democracy advocates & protectors.

Recently, I've been working on projects to help document and track attempts to undermine confidence in elections in the US. While many Americans have a general feeling that our electoral system is under attack, it's important to document and monitor the concrete ways that people are seeking to undermine free and fair elections. I am excited to use this summer to support the influential policy proposals and publications that the Brennan Center puts out to advance fairness and justice.

Update 2: I'm about halfway through my summer with the Brennan Center for Justice and I'm enjoying the process of continuously working on advancing policy goals and fighting bad actors who are working to undermine our democratic system. Recently, I've continued to work on monitoring and documenting attempts to sow doubt in our democratic system through attacks on voting systems and election officials. Armed with this information, we can continue to fight against the rising tide of election denial and support voters in their communities so that in November, they can have their voices heard and their votes counted.

I'll be continuing to post updates throughout the summer. Thank you again to @EqualJusticeAm for helping me have this experience and continue fighting for causes I care about while serving my community.

Update 3: I've only got a handful of weeks left at the Brennan Center for Justice and am continuing to observe what it takes to advance democracy through the law and learn by doing. With the end of June came the release of many Supreme Court opinions that will fundamentally alter American life, government, and democracy.

In my work at the Brennan Center, I felt like an active part of the pushback against this increasingly aggressive erosion of legal norms. I worked with lawyers spearheading the Brennan Center's work



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against the misuse of history in our courts and analyzed the text of every opinion in this term to see how the Supreme Court was misusing history. Being a part of this project has not only helped me better understand the court opinions themselves, but I have learned how to distill the information in the opinions in a way that will be useful to lawyers and legal scholars moving forward.

Update 4: Over my summer at the Brennan Center for Justice, I've been learning about and participating in fights to protect democracy. Recently, I've been working on a project that focuses on state courts. State courts are often overlooked by the public in favor of federal courts, including the Supreme Court, that handle impactful cases and attract a lot of attention. However, state court decisions can greatly impact people's daily lives and people often have a direct impact on who makes those decisions through elections of judges. While electing judges is a highly imperfect system, it is important to make people aware of judicial elections so that they can help shape the bench. This work gathering data and analyzing state cases will assist in that goal of raising awareness and maintaining a focus on the important cases that come before the court. I'm excited to be a part of this research and the important impact it could have on state courts.

Update 5: I've wrapped up my summer at the Brennan Center for Justice and I'm so excited to have had this experience as an EJA fellow. Throughout this summer, I've developed my research and writing skills at the Brennan Center for Justice while working to forward their work to uphold democracy and shape policy. I've worked with many different attorneys and staff members to track ongoing voting rights litigation, conduct research related to recent Supreme Court decisions, and look at legal issues informing policy proposals to protect elected officials from intimidation. I've hugely enjoyed getting to work one-on-one with multiple attorneys on the Democracy Team at the Brennan Center and learn from others about their path to public interest work. The Brennan Center tackles a huge range of issues and it's been great to have a front-row seat to see how they work and the positive impact they have.

Some of the most impactful work I did was in tracking voting litigation efforts across the country and conducting research that assisted in an amicus brief in one such case. It was wonderful to see how the work I was doing behind the scenes had a direct impact on the work the Brennan Center is doing to monitor and address voter suppression efforts. This ability to have a broad view of national trends of threats to our democracy and also having a direct impact by intervening in more specific ways is exactly the kind of work I hope to do as a public interest lawyer.

Going into my future work, this summer has reaffirmed my interest in voting rights work, protecting democracy, and strengthening democratic institutions through appropriate reforms. At the Brennan Center, I have seen how a legal education can help drive forward policy goals and inform reform recommendations to existing systems. I hope to use the rest of my time in law school to continue working on these skills and take them into my future career.

If anyone is interested in supporting the work EJA does to help public interest students work in legal aid and expand overall access to legal aid, you can give back.