



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Jude Suvak
LAW SCHOOL	Penn Carey Law
ORGANIZATION	Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Update 1:

I am thankful and lucky to announce that I have started my summer position as a Legal Intern in the Mortgage Foreclosure section of Philadelphia Legal Assistance! PLA has been incredibly welcoming and has given me an opportunity to jump right in to aid clients in overcoming their legal issues. In my first two weeks, I have already been able to speak directly to clients, draft litigation documents, and assist in the preparation for hearings on sheriff's sales. I am looking forward to the rest of the summer for the experience I will gain and for further chances to help others in need. I am also excited to announce that my position this summer is being supported by Equal Justice America, as I have had the privilege of being selected to be an EJA Fellow! EJA is an organization dedicated to supporting legal services to those who need it the most and is gracious enough to offer legal assistance interns like me support to serve others. As part of my fellowship, I will be documenting my time at PLA and spreading the word of the great work done by Equal Justice America!

Update 2:

My experience at PLA has continued to be rewarding and enriching. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a bus tour of community outreach spaces in North Philadelphia hosted by our sister organization, Community Legal Services. We had several stops on our tour. The first was Project Home, which has a decades long history of caring for Philadelphia's unhoused population, both through direct care and advocacy work for change. We visited SHARE, a food distribution organization that provides thousands of free meals a month to impoverished senior citizens. I was exposed to the vibrant cultural community of North Philadelphia by visiting the community gardens in Norris Square. Finally, we visited the Chinatown Clinic at Holy Redeemer which cares for those who cannot pay for medical services. Visiting all of these organizations working to help others was revitalizing and provided a unique insight into the community.



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Update 3:

My continuing time at Philadelphia Legal Assistance has been extremely rewarding. I have been impressed with the complexity of the work that I have been offered and have been enjoying working through problems related to mortgage law. I have recently had the opportunity to complete a comprehensive memorandum on the statute of limitations for mortgage foreclosure actions in various jurisdictions. This memorandum was the culmination of several weeks of preparation and research. I am glad to have a piece of writing that I am very proud of both for my own accomplishment and for the knowledge that it will help PLA's attorneys for years to come!

Update 4:

As I approach the end of my time at PLA, I have become more in tune with the necessary operations of a legal aid organization. While the most fulfilling time working is spent directly working on a client's case, it has become apparent to me that there is also a massive amount of 'behind the scenes' work that must be done to facilitate client assistance. I have had the privilege of attending CLE sessions on updates to bankruptcy rules, unit meetings where attorneys brainstorm litigation strategies, and mentoring sessions guiding aspiring attorneys through the next steps of our careers. I am thankful that I have been given an enriching experience both through the opportunity to work on documents directly assisting clients and through exposure to the essential supporting tasks of a legal assistance attorney.

Update 5:

My summer at Philadelphia Legal Assistance has drawn to a close. While I am excited to begin my next semester, it is bittersweet that my summer internship is now complete. This summer I had an opportunity to work alongside highly skilled and driven professionals to create positive outcomes for clients under duress. I am particularly proud of the fact that motions I helped to draft resulted in a favorable settlement for a client who was mistreated by her loan servicer. I was also able to assist in the creation of multiple Chapter 13 Bankruptcy plans, draft a motion to compel discovery to reveal patterns of misconduct, write multiple research memorandums on complex areas of mortgage law, and connect individually with clients. I am thankful to everyone who helped me to grow as an aspiring attorney this summer at PLA, especially my direct supervisor Gabriela Rodriguez, who has been invaluable in my professional development. I am also thankful to Equal Justice America for providing me with funding for my summer position. Without EJA, I would not have been able to have the wonderful experience that I was able to take advantage of with their support. I hope that all of my peers had equally rewarding summer experiences, and I will look back on my days at PLA fondly!