



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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ORGANIZATION	Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Update 1: As an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer, I have been working with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled in Philadelphia. Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of shadowing my mentors in Municipal Court to assist tenants facing eviction. Additionally, I have been researching ways to help clients in Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) and other subsidized housing programs.

The work has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to contribute to critical legal aid efforts and learn from dedicated professionals in the field. I am passionate about advocating for those in need and helping to close the access-to-justice gap. Did you know that 80% of individuals living in poverty who require civil legal services do not have access to them? This statistic underscores the importance of the work EJA does.

Update 2: It feels unreal that I'm now more than halfway through my internship with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled. I've gotten to do some incredible work, and I've learned so much already.

This past week, I had the opportunity to write a first draft for a trial memorandum in the Court of Common Pleas. This task involved a great deal of legal research, analysis of case law, and crafting creative arguments to support our client's position — not to mention time spent with my supervisors refining my writing. Besides researching and writing, I've also spent time speaking with clients to uncover more information for the LCD team and help give them advice.

This summer, I've learned the difference a lawyer can make. The legal system is technical and can be confusing for non-lawyers. This sort of work often goes unnoticed and underpaid, but it's absolutely essential to help lower-income people across the country.

Update 3: It's hard to believe that I'm already in the final stretch of my internship with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled.



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This week, I am working on a memo discussing the applicability of Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to housing. This involves detailed legal research and analysis to understand how this law can protect tenants' rights. Learning about the UTPCPL and how it intersects with housing has been challenging, exciting, and hopefully, will be impactful for tenants being subjected to unfair housing practices by their landlords.

Besides this memo, I've also spent the last week helping my supervising attorneys finalize a response I drafted for an upcoming hearing in the Court of Common Pleas. It's incredibly rewarding to perform actual, helpful work with such bright people.

Throughout this internship, I've seen firsthand the critical role legal aid plays in supporting those who are most vulnerable. The experience has reinforced my commitment to advocating for justice and ensuring that everyone has access to essential legal services.

Update 4: Reflecting on this incredible summer, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and learning opportunities I've had this summer. Earlier in the summer, I helped draft a response for a complaint in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas — or specifically, a motion for a preliminary injunction within that complaint. And through the summer, I saw most of the litigation lifecycle up close. Most recently, I attended the motion hearing in the C.P. Court where my supervising attorney argued against the motion. This process has been sobering, frankly. I've seen what stand-up lawyering is like from my mentors at LCD, but I've also seen the other side. Frivolous litigation occurs far too often — helping sketchy lawyers make a quick buck . . . often at the expense of lower-income people. This summer, I have seen firsthand the critical role that legal aid plays in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community. The work legal aid organizations do often goes unnoticed and underfunded, yet it is crucial for helping individuals navigate legal challenges and secure their rights. My experiences at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled have deepened my commitment to advocating for justice and ensuring that everyone has access to the legal help they need. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Equal Justice America for supporting this internship and making this transformative experience possible. Please join me in supporting Equal Justice America and ensuring that essential legal services continue to reach those who need them most. Your contributions can make a significant difference.

Update 5: As my internship with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled comes to an end, it's time for my final EJA Fellow update. Reflecting on this incredible journey, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and learning opportunities I've had this summer.

Throughout my time at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled, I have engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at providing essential legal services to those in need. One of my biggest tasks was drafting a trial memorandum for a case in the Court of Common Pleas. This project involved extensive legal research, analysis of case law, and crafting persuasive arguments to support our client's position. Working closely with my supervisors, I refined my legal writing skills and gained valuable insights into effective advocacy.



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In addition to trial preparation, I have spent considerable time researching the applicability of Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to housing issues. This research was critical in understanding how the law can protect tenants' rights and provided our team with the necessary legal tools to advocate more effectively for our clients. Delving into this nuanced area of law was both challenging and enlightening, enhancing my understanding of consumer protection in the housing context, and hopefully providing more tools for the Clinic to help tenants in the future.

A significant portion of my internship also involved direct client interaction. I assisted tenants facing eviction in Municipal Court, conducted client intake interviews, and tried my best to help clients going through some of the most difficult experiences people can endure. These experiences underscored the importance of empathy, clear communication, and thorough preparation in legal practice. I learned that the legal system can be incredibly complex and intimidating for those without legal training, making the work of legal aid organizations like the Legal Clinic for the Disabled absolutely essential.

This summer, I have seen firsthand the critical role that legal aid plays in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community. The work we do often goes unnoticed and underfunded, yet it is crucial for helping individuals navigate legal challenges and secure their rights. My experiences at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled have deepened my commitment to advocating for justice and ensuring that everyone has access to the legal help they need. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Equal Justice America for supporting this internship and making this transformative experience possible. Please join me in supporting Equal Justice America and ensuring that essential legal services continue to reach those who need them most. Your contributions can make a significant difference.