



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## SUMMER 2024

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	ACLU of Southern California

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#### **Update 1:**

Over the past few weeks, I have worked with the ACLU of Southern California on the LA Jails team. In this role, I have seen firsthand the conditions of the different jail facilities in downtown Los Angeles and spoken with and filed grievances on behalf of individuals incarcerated in Men's Central Jail, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, and others. This experience has highlighted the many issues people who are incarcerated face, and I am honored to have the opportunity to work on their behalf.

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#### **Update 2:**

This past month at the ACLU of Southern California has flown by as I have been working with the LA Jails team to advocate on behalf of people incarcerated in LA County Jails. I recently had the opportunity to attend a Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) for Institutional Inspections meeting in which Board Members shared information from a report about their recent trips to multiple LA jails. Members provided details on the unsanitary, harmful, and concerning conditions within LA jails. These details even led to an LA Times article highlighting the issues. This meeting and the accompanying report make me even more proud to be working on a team dedicated to reducing the horrible conditions within the LA County jail system.

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#### **Update 3:**

With only a couple weeks left of my internship with the ACLU of Southern California, I have been focusing on my research evaluating the role environmental laws could have on jail construction, closure, and conditions. I have had the opportunity to combine my past experience in the clean energy industry with my commitment to supporting those facing inhumane and harmful conditions in the LA County jails. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with a fantastic team and advocate for individuals who are incarcerated.



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## **Update 4:**

I am incredibly grateful for my time with the ACLU of Southern California this past summer. I recently had the opportunity to attend a Civilian Oversight Commission meeting, where my team made public comment on the ACLU's concerns over LA jail conditions. I also attended the ACLU SoCal Advocates for Justice event, where different attorneys, teams, and change-makers were honored for their positive impact on the people of Southern California. My time with ACLU SoCal has been incredible, and it would not have been possible without the support of Equal Justice America.

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## **Update 5:**

Looking back on this summer, I could not have asked for a better internship. Working with the ACLU of Southern California allowed me to gain experience with direct services while enhancing my research and writing skills. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to truly see what the conditions are like behind bars, and I am proud to have worked with a team dedicated to improving such conditions.

Throughout the summer, I was able to get involved in various activities related to case settlement monitoring, advocacy, and ongoing litigation. To support ongoing settlement monitoring, I had the opportunity to review use of force instances that occurred within the Los Angeles County jails. After reviewing the related documents, I provided analyses to my supervisors on whether the instances complied with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department policies and the case settlement order. Oftentimes, the uses of force were not in compliance, prompting further advocacy by the ACLU of Southern California.

Additionally, I conducted research on how the California Environmental Quality Act review process could have an impact on the approval and construction of new Los Angeles County jails. This research provided me with an opportunity to connect two separate areas of interest in order to find solutions to the ongoing issue of incarceration.

Lastly, I appreciated my team's willingness to let me combine environmental law with decarceration work, and I look forward to continuing to serve as an advocate for all people who are incarcerated. Thank you to Equal Justice America for helping make this summer possible.