



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	American University Washington College of Law
ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid DC

Final Reflection:

I finished my internship with Legal Aid DC. In my last two weeks, I drafted a Reasonable Accommodation Request, prepared discovery requests for litigation, and took notes at a trial before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Each of these experiences presented a new opportunity to learn different ways to advocate in the litigation process. For instance, at trial I witnessed how direct examination and cross examination differ between a court proceeding and an administrative proceeding. I was fortunate to have time before, during, and after the day's proceedings to ask the trial advocates about their preparation and decision-making strategies.

My biggest goal for this summer was to learn about and participate in the litigation process. Legal Aid provided me with ample opportunities to achieve this goal. I worked with tenants seeking representation at the Landlord-Tenant Courthouse and watched attorneys sign on to represent them. I also heard attorneys pitch cases to the housing team in unit meetings. Further, I helped attorneys conduct legal research, scheduled client meetings, and shadowed client interviews. I accompanied one of Legal Aid's housing investigators on a home inspection to help collect evidence for a case and later searched for notices of infraction filed for other units in the same building to see if they matched our findings. Additionally, I drafted an Opposition to a Motion for Summary Judgment, a set of discovery requests, a timeline of events based on documents received during discovery, and a reasonable accommodation letter. I also conducted policy research, participated in an inter-agency meeting about systemic issues, and drafted a memo about the biggest issues raised in that meeting. I even got to tour the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and meet Chief Judge Srinivasan.

I spent my last day of the internship at Landlord Tenant court. My days at Landlord Tenant court were the most rewarding of the summer. There, I got to interact with tenants looking for legal



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help, pop into courtrooms to watch ongoing proceedings, shadow attorneys during intake interviews, and guide tenants to the Clerk's office to file documents with the court. I am ending this summer with a strong understanding and respect for each step of the litigation process. I believe the most meaningful part of this process is client interaction. Thus, after all my litigation experiences throughout the summer, it felt right to end where every case starts, with prospective clients.

I am grateful to Equal Justice America and the American University Washington College of Law for supporting my work.