



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Legal Aid of NC

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### Final Reflection:

The day before my supervising attorney told me a critique I have heard a lot: I'm soft spoken and quiet, which is true. So, I am really proud of my steadiness in talking loudly and interviewing a hostile witness when I would rather have been doing anything else.

I got to lead the case when interviewing our clients about the timeline of moving in, alerting the landlord of the defects, the landlord constructively convicting them and the landlord removing their stuff.

Lawyers are expected to follow protocols that non-lawyers do not have to. Like having 3 copies, or dressing professionally or not admitting to their crimes without solicitation. The defendant was aggressive but so aggressive he was admitting his crimes while talking negatively about the plaintiff. It was like getting bullied on the playground, but it was a courtroom and he wasn't allowed to hit you.

I am now intimately familiar with the NC Residential Agreements Act § 42-42 and the relevant case law like *Dean v. Hill* 615 S.E.2d 699 (N.C. App. 2005), *Myers v. Broome-Edwards* 903 S.E.2d 381 (N.C. App. 2024) and *Stanley v. Moore* 454 S.E.2d 225 (N.C. 1995). Although N.C. Gen. Stat § 42-42 (b) was used by the magistrate to justify a contract was made when the plaintiff was afforded no adequate consideration for living in a house without operable toilets and standing sewage. I nonetheless learned and did well for my first time.

I enjoyed the experience of going to court and at least winning a verdict for the client when she did not have the time herself to file the claim. I also enjoyed this internship. The attorneys I have worked with on cases whether for research or case review have been monumental in my growth this summer. From May to this June, I did not stop learning. I have worked on my first SSI cases with medical chronology, wills signings and witnessing and housing whether for breach of



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habitability or self-help evictions. I have gone to court for DVPO's and done more family law regarding custody orders than I did in Family Law class.

For my last summer in law school, this was a good summer with a range of topics to explore in my home state of NC. It was so important for me to give back to the county that helped me grow in undergrad. I do not know where I will practice after law school but every time I work in public service no matter the area, I realize that more connects us rather than divides us. I hope to continue to be guided by those who wish to help others in my final year of law school.