



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2025

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	American University Washington College of Law
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Education Law Center of Pennsylvania

#### Final Reflection:

This summer, I interned at the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania. The Education Law Center of Pennsylvania is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's children have access to a quality education. Specifically, the Education Law Center focuses on advocating and providing resources for the most vulnerable students in Pennsylvania including, but not limited to students with disabilities, multilingual learners, low-income students and students of color. The organization's advocacy has three core focuses: ensuring equal access to education, fighting for fair school funding and stopping the school-to-prison pipeline.

During my internship, I had the wonderful opportunity to work under Paige Joki Esq., a staff attorney who specializes in addressing barriers and identifying solutions for students experiencing homelessness and students who identify as Black girls. Under Paige's leadership, I had the opportunity to be published in a collaborative policy brief on nondiscrimination in dress and grooming codes. Additionally, I had the opportunity to co-draft a complaint to the Philadelphia Department of Human Services alleging unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability when a publicly funded preschool expelled a 3-year-old autistic child. Outside of these larger projects, I frequently conducted intake calls with concerned parents, drafted resource emails to clients to better inform them of their rights, and co-edited a know-your-rights presentation for public high school students. My work at the Education Law Center was nothing short of impactful as I consistently had the opportunity to advocate for children of marginalized backgrounds and educate locals about their rights and their children's rights in educational settings.



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The Equal Justice America fellowship is one of the main reasons why I was able to do such impactful work. Without the generosity of Equal Justice America and their committed donors, I would not have been able to afford housing nor my commute to the city while interning at the Education Law Center. Unfortunately, legal careers in public interest continue to be underpaid yet the work continues. Equal Justice America makes it possible for dedicated public servants to continue doing the work while compensating us for our time and labor. Without Equal Justice America, I could not have taken this internship.