



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	UC Berkeley
ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid at Work

Final Reflection:

It's hard to believe that my ten weeks with Legal Aid at Work (LAAW) has already come to a close. The summer was fast-paced, with me diving straight into preparing for a hearing before the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement on my first day. The case had been pending for several years, but we managed to win a substantial wage judgment thanks to our client's perseverance and our preparation. While the case has been appealed, meaning years of legal battles may continue, the decision was a tremendous vindication of our client's experience. This was my first opportunity to see what goes into preparing for an administrative hearing, which is a setting employment lawyers often find themselves in.

Another significant experience I had was reviewing a pending wage claim and working with our client to negotiate a settlement with her former employer. Like the case discussed above, my ten short weeks were not enough time to see this through to the end. Reviewing her claim, applying California's numerous wage and hour laws to the calculation, and speaking with her about her claim was the perfect way to practice and apply what I had learned working on the previous case. And like the previous case, it is always rewarding to hear out and validate client experiences, even if I couldn't fully see their matters all the way through in my short internship.

I also had a chance to sharpen my legal research and writing skills while helping a client who was wrongfully denied state disability insurance benefits. Knowing that I was hoping to get a substantial writing assignment for practice this summer, my supervisor assigned me to take a first draft of essentially the entire brief for our client's appeal before the Superior Court. This too proved to be a bit more than I had time for, and I only completed the most substantial portions of the brief. I'm looking forward to reviewing my supervisor's feedback, so we can fine-tune our argument and ensure our client receives the benefits she is owed.



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I had several other experiences this summer that confirmed LAAW was the right organization to spend it with. Some involved the various other great people I met while at LAAW: clients for matters I only briefly worked on or observed, attorneys from program areas outside of LAAW, community partners or informal advocates who refer cases of workers needing help to us, and residents of San Quentin Prison Rehabilitation Center. Other experiences were highly cathartic, like working on a lawsuit against gig-work companies or commiserating with low-wage, at-will workers while giving legal advice through the Workers' Rights Clinic. Those aspects of my summer took me back to my days of driving for DoorDash and working in service myself to pay my way through college, a big part of the reason I've chosen to dedicate my legal career to helping working people.

I am extraordinarily grateful to Legal Aid at Work, my team in the Wage Protection Program, and Equal Justice America for making this experience possible for me this summer. I hope that our fundraising efforts will pay this opportunity forward to next summer's law clerks.