



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

**Summer 2025**

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Brooklyn Defender Services

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### Final Reflection:

As my internship draws to a close, I am reflecting on the enormous ways I have grown both professionally and personally this summer. I am grateful to Equal Justice America for sponsoring my time at Brooklyn Defender Services and am walking into my 2L year more prepared and excited to enter the field of direct legal services.

Professionally, this summer I became much more comfortable with my legal research and writing skills. Going into the summer, I was intimidated to work in a fast-paced environment with less guidance than my legal writing classroom. Working at Brooklyn Defender Services showed me the caliber of work expected of a public defender and the level of supervision to be expected in working in such an office. I feel grateful that Brooklyn Defenders offered excellent supervision while always centering the client's needs and goals. Instead of my internship being just about me and my skills, my internship felt like it was about the clients and how best to serve them. As I head into my fall semester and begin my criminal defense clinic, I feel much more confident in my ability to interface with clients and I have a better sense of what challenges might lie ahead.

On a more personal level, I am grateful to have gained experience working in direct legal services due to the questions it sparked about my desires for my career and life more broadly. For example, I noticed how many attorneys lauded their work-life balance and generous parental leave at Brooklyn Defenders. These are now benefits I am considering more heavily as I consider my career path. It also gave me perspective into how attorneys balance the heaviness of public defense with their personal lives. For example, some attorneys lead with empathy and



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seem to always be willing to speak with clients, while others treat their roles as a 9-5 job with strict boundaries. Both types of attorneys seemed content doing it their way, and led me to consider how I can best sustain myself going into an emotionally taxing profession. I am looking forward to pondering these questions further during my criminal defense clinic in the fall.