



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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LAW SCHOOL	DePaul University College of Law
ORGANIZATION	Ascend Justice

Final Reflection:

As I wrap up my time with Ascend Justice, I wanted to provide a final update on my work and the experiences that have shaped my understanding of domestic violence law.

Over the past few months, I've had the privilege of contributing to several key cases, most notably working directly with survivors of gender-based violence. I assisted in writing affidavits, preparing legal documents, and supporting survivors through the process of filing Emergency Orders of Protection (EOP). One particular case stands out where a Spanish-speaking survivor came to us with an urgent need for an EOP. I attended court with her, and it was incredibly moving when the EOP was granted. She expressed her gratitude through tears, and it reinforced my commitment to ensuring that all survivors—regardless of their language or cultural background—receive the legal support they deserve.

In addition to my work with clients, I also focused on a research project titled Language, Culture, and Competence: Ethical Representation of Immigrant and Limited-English-Proficient Survivors in Illinois. This project explored the intersection of language access, cultural competency, and the ethical obligations of attorneys under Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 and 1.4. I examined case law, legal precedents, and the real-world challenges faced by immigrant and LEP survivors, particularly in domestic violence cases. My research highlighted the need for better resources for language access and the importance of culturally competent legal representation.

Overall, my time at Ascend Justice has deepened my passion for advocating for survivors and reinforced my belief in the importance of systemic change in the legal system. The experience of supporting clients through the legal process, along with my research into the ethical



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responsibilities of attorneys, has greatly enriched my understanding of both the practical and theoretical aspects of domestic violence law.

I am deeply grateful for the mentorship and support I've received here, and I look forward to continuing this important work in the future.