



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Charlotte Saltzman
LAW SCHOOL	Fordham University School of Law
ORGANIZATION	The Legal Aid Society

Final Reflection:

I finished my summer internship with The Legal Aid Society's Civil Law Reform Unit last week, and it was truly a wonderful experience. I came into the summer expecting to focus primarily on housing law, but I was pleasantly surprised to split my time with immigration law throughout my time there.

What I appreciated most about the internship was how seamlessly Legal Aid Society blends what is often considered "direct service" law with "impact" litigation. There was no hard line between helping individual clients and pursuing broader systemic change. The work was both proactive and reactive, and it occurred at multiple levels—ranging from affirmative and defensive litigation to policy research, information gathering, and resource sharing. On any given day, I could be helping to draft a habeas motion for an individual client detained due to immigration issues, while also working on a legal research memo exploring potential litigation avenues in response to recent policy changes by ICE. The breadth of the work was exciting and constantly engaging. One of my longer-term assignments involved drafting an amicus brief related to the succession rights in Mitchell-Lama housing—a writing style that was completely new to me. This task challenged me to adapt my legal writing for a specific audience and to think strategically about how to best contribute to a case without being directly involved in the litigation. It was a great lesson in crafting persuasive, targeted arguments for maximum impact.

The attorneys and staff I worked with were incredibly knowledgeable, generous with their time, and deeply committed to justice. I learned so much from observing how they prioritized and strategized to make the most out of limited resources, always with the goal of serving underserved, low-income New Yorkers.



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As I head into my 3L year at Fordham University School of Law, I feel more committed than ever to pursuing an interdisciplinary and holistic career in civil rights law—one that's grounded in the real needs of clients and their communities. There is so much meaningful work still to be done.