



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

**Summer 2025**

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	Georgetown University Law Center
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Legal Aid DC

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### Final Reflection:

There is so much to learn by sitting in a room with your supervising attorney and the client. I was able to dive into one CPO case and the lead attorney even had me go through testimony prep with the client and a witness. I asked her questions like the attorney would during the trial date and guided her through the flow of the direct, focusing on the legal points we had to make. I drafted my own speech reminding witnesses to speak the truth and that we will not get to everything you want to talk about since we are proving legal elements based off of the way attorneys have given their own reminder speeches this summer to their witnesses. Sometimes, on the day of our almost trial, I would repeat things my attorney said about speaking your truth, how to calm down, etc. that were helpful when I was one-on-one with the client or her daughter who was also testifying. I'm so grateful for Claire Comey's mentorship at Legal Aid DC (LADC)!

This summer I did multiple intakes with LADC, with a supervising attorney and without, and found that intakes can be especially strange! As an intern, I have the fallback of saying I cannot give legal advice, but I have seen attorneys be asked questions by clients who want an answer right there and then, and the attorney has to somehow say not now. I witnessed and participated in intakes where an attorney would say I don't know, let me discuss with my colleagues and supervisors, and then I would see/or say myself once, that situation in case rounds and ask for advice. It was strange to me when we would get off the phone with the client, the attorney would tell me what she thought, and it would end up being what we told the client, but we still made sure to do the research and discussion rather than giving an 'easy answer' to the applicant when no one was sure exactly.

There were events central to my summer that LADC created and fostered outside of the DV/Family Unit, including tours by former clerks of the DC Circuit of Appeals and Superior Court,



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and chats with Chief Judge Srinivasan and Judge Becker. I was able to have coffee chats with people in Consumer, Public Benefits, Housing, and more units to chat about law school, my future plans, and even just living in DC. The people here are all so kind and invested in all the interns, it was great to interact with them!

I had an amazing summer with LADC and am walking away confident in my ability to prepare a CPO petition and trial, assist in custody matters, and draft motions for domestic relations and domestic violence branches. I highly recommend LADC DV/Family!