



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

**Summer 2025**

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	The George Washington University School of Law
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	The Legal Aid Society

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### Final Reflection:

I came into this summer knowing that I wanted to help those in need. The value and importance of providing legal counsel to those who'd otherwise lack it were clear to me in theory but not in practice. My goal has always been to expand the right to quality healthcare, but I was unclear how I could achieve that goal. Through my work with The Legal Aid Society, I experienced that firsthand: Helping those who needed it, discovering why this work is so critical, and fighting for a cause that I know matters.

My most important experience working with Legal Aid was the opportunity to support countless individual clients on external appeals for denials of Medicaid-covered services. As a practitioner, it helped me develop an understanding of the process and norms around writing for administrative-law appeals. More importantly, because our practice was so busy, I was able to improve critical underlying interpersonal skills that help attorneys connect with and effectively advocate for people who are unfamiliar with and often distrustful of the legal system. This includes people who can be challenging and not always charitable to you. But knowing that I was helping ensure people in need of medically necessary care could receive it and left clients with a positive experience working with us helped even more. Furthermore, the kindness and joy from clients when I could report good news or even listen to them speak on the phone reminded me why this work is as essential as it is.

I also supported our law reform unit's drafting of laws protecting gender-affirming care, work that further stimulated the deeply nerdy, policy-focused part of my brain. I dug deeply into fascinating questions of insurance and constitutional law, questions that required unwinding decades of unique, fact-specific caselaw. Not only did this work improve my research



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skills, but when writing a memo explaining my findings and applying them to the laws we had drafted, I had a chance to flex my creativity both in my legal reasoning and writing. Most importantly, this project let me support the LGBTQ+ community in a time of crisis and directly contribute to a more inclusive and respectful healthcare system. As a queer person, I cannot express how important that opportunity is to me.

Over the summer, I learned how important legal services organizations are to the communities in which they're based and the critical role they play in securing substantive justice for those without resources. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the extraordinary mentorship, guidance, and support that the attorneys at The Legal Aid Society gave to me this summer. Furthermore, without the support of Equal Justice America, I would not have had the financial resources to have done it. I hope to continue working in Legal Services this spring and continue developing the skills I can use to help others.