



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2025

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



<b>NAME</b>	Jenine Elmosleh
<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	Harvard Law
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	New York Legal Assistance Group

#### Final Reflection:

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to complete a summer internship at New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), in their LegalHealth Unit. When deciding where to apply for my legal internship, I had at the forefront of my mind the desire to work at a place where I would be afforded the chance to engage in substantive, client-facing work. I was fortunate enough that my career advisor told me about an open position in the LegalHealth Unit at NYLAG, and I was immediately interested after reading their website. The LegalHealth Unit is a medical-legal partnership which focuses on providing legal support to patients at 34 hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout New York City, so that patients can focus on improving their health. Most of my work centered around immigration matters, which allowed me to provide support to the most vulnerable individuals during a critical time of fear and uncertainty in the immigrant community.

The most meaningful projects I was assigned this summer were those in which I had direct communication with clients. Thankfully, I was able to engage in many such projects during my summer at NYLAG. Perhaps the most fulfilling assignment I completed was working on a client's work permit application. My supervisor gave me a great deal of independence on this assignment, and allowed me to meet with the client one-on-one to review the details of their application. By the end of my internship, we received confirmation that the client's work permit application was approved, and they were thus permitted to begin working legally in the United States. I had the pleasure of calling the client to inform them about their approval, and hearing the excitement in their voice as they expressed their gratitude is a moment I will carry with me for the rest of my career. I think back on this often, and I feel so much fulfillment in knowing that my work had real, meaningful impacts on an individual who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to receive this kind of critical support.



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Without the fellowship I received from Equal Justice America (EJA), my public interest work would not have been possible this summer. Especially in a place like New York City, with an extremely high cost of living, the financial support from EJA was critical for me to pursue an unpaid opportunity. The support I received from the EJA community affirmed my belief that resources do exist to support public interest lawyers. Regardless of where my career takes me, the experiences I had this summer will stay with me and will continue to inspire my legal practice to be more client-centered and empathetic.