



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Final Reflection:

I believe it is the job of every attorney to serve as advocates to those most vulnerable to the flaws of the American justice system and the job of every Texan to advocate for each other. This summer EJA provided me the opportunity to pursue this ideal. My work at MALDEF placed me with the team litigating against redistricting efforts that minimize the voices of Black and brown Texans.

While this topic has gained national coverage in recent weeks, the team at MALDEF has been leaders against similar efforts in each redistricting cycle since the ratification of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Voter rights and districting has been contentious in part because of the flaws in how the state creates its electoral maps which has legislatures dictating the very boundaries they represent, a conflict of interest if ever there was one. It's difficult to see how the issues of one state can become the issues of them all, but my hope is that the issue of redistricting provides some guidance.

Democracies only exist where there is free and meaningful access to elections. This summer illustrated that American democracy, at least in Texas, may not exist at all. Like the nation, Texas is a tapestry woven with the cultures of those that immigrated from around the globe and the Indigenous peoples already present, and like Americans, Texans share one identity under our state flag. It is our unity through diversity that makes the state great and that unity can only remain so long as every Texan has their voice heard through their vote.