



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Elizabeth Martinez
LAW SCHOOL	Loyola University Chicago Law
ORGANIZATION	Illinois Prison Project

Final Reflection:

This summer, I had the privilege of serving as a Summer Law Clerk at the Illinois Prison Project (IPP), an organization grounded in the belief that we are all more than the worst things we have ever done, and that every incarcerated individual is capable of restoration and deserving of compassion. IPP's mission goes beyond legal representation for post-conviction relief. It also educates the public on how to be effective advocates for their incarcerated loved ones, empowering them to take action through resources and training.

From my very first weeks, I saw firsthand how IPP fills critical justice gaps. I participated in workshops that helped prepare family members to speak before the Prisoner Review Board in support of a medically vulnerable loved one under the Joe Coleman Medical Release Act. I also traveled to support IPP attorneys during a resentencing hearing for an incarcerated survivor of domestic violence.

Midway through the summer, I attended hearings before the Prisoner Review Board. I witnessed attorneys and family members standing side by side, advocating for release, and I listened to powerful testimonies of growth. A client had recently earned his bachelor's degree, and his family and supporters filled the room in shirts proudly displaying his graduation photo.

Much of my work involved drafting clemency petitions, which are more than legal documents. Their stories are built from hours of conversations with clients, their families, and their mentors. These petitions capture stories of pain, resilience, transformation, and forgiveness. Even though my time at IPP has come to an end, I look forward to receiving news about my clients' clemency petitions. During my last calls with them, we agreed this wasn't "goodbye," it was "see you later."



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I am deeply grateful for the mentorship of dedicated attorneys and the support of my fellow clerks. My time at IPP has been more than just legal experience — it's been a lesson in restoring humanity and how to create change. I leave with a renewed commitment to advocating for second chances and to ensuring that justice is not only about punishment, but about rehabilitation and mercy.