



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Clara Rheanna Morones
LAW SCHOOL	LMU Loyola Law School
ORGANIZATION	ACLU SoCal

Final Reflection:

Working with the ACLU SoCal's Education Equity Project taught me 3 things.

1. Long term change requires the complementary efforts of stakeholders operating at multiple levels.

At the ACLU SoCal, legal advocacy takes many forms. Impact litigation is often conducted alongside co-counsel from other non-profits and private litigation firms. Litigation is coupled with legislative policy advocacy. Input and support from the community is fundamental to setting priorities and moving the work forward. While law school can often encourage students to see every wrong as an opportunity for litigation, the ACLU SoCal showed me that the discernment needed to pursue the best solution requires lawyers to consider litigation as just one of many potential pathways.

2. Ambitious Work is Best Done in Community.

The work I hope to do throughout my career is challenging. Attorneys can confront deeply personal concerns. The litigation I observed has fought on behalf of students facing defacto segregation. Reading the experience of students and parents fighting for the right of all students to seek an education carries weight that is best lightened by those around you. Seeing the dedication and passion of the people around me was an amazing experience. I hope to have the opportunity to continue working alongside colleagues who inspire me.



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3. Grit and persistence are necessary.

While at the ACLU SoCal, I worked with my team to further a legislative agenda that would protect all students. Through that process, I saw the many setbacks that can be experienced during the legislative processes. CA's robust legislative system created many opportunities for legislation to fail and succeed. Through a combination of written advocacy and collaborative conversations, I supported the team's efforts to influence impending legislation language choices and scope. While I learned something new at each stage of the process, my most important take-away was that persistence in the face of set-backs is necessary for meaningful change.

This summer I have had the opportunity to see how policy advocacy can impact students' rights, to learn from experienced litigators who share my mission, and to sharpen the research and writing skills I will need as I continue advocating on behalf of kids. Interning at the ACLU SoCal's Education Equity Project provided me with a unique internship experience that will inform my work as an education advocate for years to come.