



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Final Reflection: My time at the ACLU of Michigan was more informative than I could have ever expected. I spent the summer developing memos on multiple areas of law that do not have extensive litigation history. This meant that there were no arguments that mapped perfectly to the situation in my memo. I had to use tangentially related cases and arguments to analogize them to my situation. This required me to be very creative when constructing arguments which made me better at research and writing. Sometimes, I would have to use a case that argued the exact opposite of my position simply to have a legal basis to argue from. This taught me to be a better researcher. Since I had to piece these arguments together from cases that were not explicitly related to my issue, my search terms had to be quite specific. If I was not going to find the perfect case, I needed to ensure I at least found the exact piece of an argument I was looking for. Once I found a case where the court said the right words, the analogy was up to me. Additionally, I worked on an ABA immigration court observation project which opened my eyes to new law enforcement tactics in this area of the law which was completely new to me. These Master Calander Hearings were my first experience with immigration law and getting to observe how the American government and its legal system treat immigrants was supremely informative. Lastly, meeting and conversing with ACLU staff lawyer or otherwise provided invaluable insight into the inner workings of impact litigation and the politics and economic concerns surrounding that. Understanding the strategy behind impact litigation was a huge learning curve for me at the ACLU of Michigan. However, none of it would have clicked without the opportunity to speak with the political and outreach departments about how their work supports and supplements the legal work, creating a mutually reinforcing dynamic. All these experiences made me a better lawyer and gave me pathways to explore moving forward in my career as I finish law school.