



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Ivy Bernstein
LAW SCHOOL	New York University School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Family Justice Law Center

Final Reflection:

I have had an outstanding summer as an Equal Justice America (EJA) Summer Fellow at the Family Justice Law Center (FJLC) in New York City. The Family Justice Law Center utilizes affirmative litigation to challenge Child Protective Services agencies' wrongful and unconstitutional practices. FJLC centers the experiences of parents impacted by the family policing system, which predominantly targets low-income parents of color with coercive tactics and government surveillance. My summer internship at the Family Justice Law Center was extraordinarily meaningful and rewarding. I am very grateful to the team for all the mentorship they provided me with and to Equal Justice America for helping fund the internship.

Not only did I gain excellent feedback on my research and writing from FJLC, but I learned so much about the litigation process and how to identify constitutional claims to support parents impacted by family policing. This internship has taught me the value of centering client experiences in impact litigation work, as well as the importance of establishing strong relationships with litigation partners. I learned that I really enjoy research, writing, and working with impacted parents. At the end of this summer, I have a few strong writing samples that I am proud of and have built amazing relationships with FJLC staff and plaintiffs.

Through my summer internship experience with FJLC, I honed many foundational legal skills in bluebooking, legal research and writing, plaintiff recruitment, editing, intakes, litigation strategy, and much more. I had the opportunity to produce original research memos, cite-check amicus and other briefs, and attend fascinating strategy meetings. The work that I have done and everything that I have learned at the Family Justice Law Center will help inform my future work in the New York University School of Law's Family Defense Clinic next year and my public interest legal career going forward.