

## Summer 2025 EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



| NAME         | Maya Charma               |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| LAW SCHOOL   | NYU Law                   |
| ORGANIZATION | Family Justice Law Center |

## **Final Reflection:**

This summer, I was a legal intern at Family Justice Law Center in New York City. Thanks to the support of Equal Justice America, I was able to work at FJLC for ten weeks, focusing on serving families that have been harmed by the child welfare system.

FJLC is a legal non-profit organization that brings affirmative litigation against the child welfare system, also known as the family policing system. As a legal intern, I significantly developed my research and writing skills to support future litigation. I conducted two major research projects throughout the summer, resulting in final memorandums that FJLC will be able to use to formulate legal strategies. I expanded my understanding regarding civil procedure, especially in the context of impact litigation. I also learned how to hone my research to answer specific litigation questions. My writing skills improved greatly, as I engaged in several rounds of feedback and edits with my supervisors. I have learned how to be clearer, more assertive, and concise in my writing, making me a stronger legal advocate.

One experience I really appreciated at FJLC was the ability to engage in community partnerships. Over the summer, I was able to join meetings in which FJLC was partnered with other legal and community organizations. These meetings were incredibly insightful, as I have witnessed how FJLC prioritized learning about the needs of impacted communities. FJLC developed litigation strategies around the harms the impacted community is experiencing and the solutions they are looking for. This community-first approach was really important to learn as an aspiring attorney. I learned that when community members inform impact litigation work, legal organizations can create effective campaigns that address the needs of impacted people.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to serve the community by conducting intakes. When people contact FJLC, we respond to see if we can offer any services or resources. Conducting intakes with potential clients was fulfilling, as I was able to directly serve people looking for legal help. Working with clients was also very grounding because I could tether my research and impact litigation strategy work to real people. The client interactions at this internship confirmed to me that I want to do direct services after law school, helping clients find real solutions to their legal issues. Overall, this internship helped me improve hard skills and confirmed my interest in combatting the family policing system as part of my career once I graduate.

I really appreciate the support from EJA that has enabled me to have such a great experience this summer. Thank you so much.