



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	The Legal Aid Society LGBTQ+ Law and Policy Unit

Final Reflection:

The last week or so of my internship has been so fun! I was able to attend Lavender Law, which is the annual conference hosted by the LGBTQ+ Bar. It was great to connect with folks from my 1L internship at Lambda Legal, especially since I hadn't met many of them in person yet. I was also able to connect my supervisor at Legal Aid with my supervisor from Lambda, which was so special—both are super important people to my development as a lawyer. It was nice to be able to attend the conference as part of my time at Legal Aid since so many people in the queer civil rights space attend and contribute. I loved attending panels about Asian American LGBTQ+ work as well as the criminalization of trans lives. Those together served as a great way to cap off an internship in queer justice; they discussed a lot of the things I've learned this summer, and it felt inspiring to learn from leaders in the field and feel like a real peer.

At the end of my internship, I was able to attend a hearing of the NYC council committee on criminal justice (rescheduled from earlier). I was planning to testify at the hearing, but it went way over time, so I unfortunately was not able to (but I contributed to the written testimony submitted by Legal Aid for the same hearing). The hearing was surprisingly dramatic and actually a good overall summary of policy work; I saw how logistically slow-moving and bureaucratic the legislation process can be, but I was again inspired by some of the progressive folks in city council who are working to hold the corrections system accountable and reduce its footprint.

Overall, I am so, so grateful for my time at Legal Aid! Thank you so much to EJA and to the folks I worked with this summer. The work that this unit does is so special, and it has really convinced me of the importance of listening closely to clients when trying to do systemic impact work. I'm not sure if I'll work in New York, possibly California, maybe a national role after graduation—but



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I loved how this unit was so community-centric and rooted in local spaces, and I know I want to replicate that feeling in the future wherever I am. I'll never forget the fundraiser from the beginning of my internship, which was such a beautiful expression of queer joy and reinforced my feeling that art and performance are crucial parts of these movements (the picture above is from that event!). Thank you again!