



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Virginia Ryan
LAW SCHOOL	NYU School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Legal Services NYC

Final Reflection: I feel very grateful to have worked with Legal Services NYC this summer. Working with their impact litigation team sharpened my legal research and writing skills by immersing me in complex, groundbreaking issues, while also grounding me in the importance of advocating for individuals in vulnerable situations. From securing the release of a wrongfully detained immigrant grandmother from ICE custody, to publishing a policy report advocating for a moratorium on evictions during extreme heat waves, to drafting legal motions to help a disabled woman receive the accommodations guaranteed to her under the Fair Housing Act—this summer profoundly deepened my appreciation for the vital role civil legal services attorneys play for their clients.

I gained a profound understanding of meaningful advocacy for indigent clients across diverse settings. Throughout this experience, I significantly improved my legal research and writing abilities while advocating for vulnerable individuals. As I progress throughout my legal career, I will continue to apply these enhanced skills. More importantly, I will carry forward the ethos of empathy and community that defined my time this summer. The attorneys and staff at Legal Services NYC demonstrated how intentional mentorship and providing a supportive and collaborative environment can empower everyone to learn and contribute. I am determined to bring that same nurturing spirit into my future endeavors, ensuring that each opportunity is met with compassion and a commitment to making a constructive difference.

I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for backing my internship and to Legal Services NYC for offering such a dynamic experience supporting such important work. This internship has reaffirmed my passion for public interest law, and I am eager to see where my journey leads next.