



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

**Summer 2025**

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



<b>NAME</b>	Jessica Balint
<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	Rutgers Law School Newark
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Disability Rights New York

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### Final Reflection:

As I stand on the cusp of my second year in law school, I find myself reflecting on the myriad challenges I have encountered—both personal and professional—that have shaped my journey thus far. In the early days, each morning felt like a blank canvas, inviting me to explore the unfamiliar. After years of laboring in demanding jobs, the transition to this academic realm felt surreal. There were moments when an unsettling thought crept in: I didn't truly deserve this opportunity. A fear loomed that everything I had worked for could come crashing down at any moment, and, in truth, for some things, it did. This past year has been an odyssey of grief and transformation, one that tested my resilience in profound ways. I witnessed the shifting tides of the closest relationship[s], as people once totally fortified became completely distant, their forms blurring into the background of my life while my own identity emerged with striking clarity. I suspect that anyone who has hit the interstate after a long night of study, grappling with a heavy heart and anxieties about an uncertain future, understands the depth of this experience. But this is life. This is the work we must do. And academically, I faced my own set of hurdles. Imposter syndrome—a pervasive feeling of self-doubt and inadequacy—has been my unwelcome companion too. Over the past six to twelve months, it has been a formidable adversary, obscuring my capabilities and casting shadows over my achievements. It's even worse when people closest to you use that insecurity in ruthless ways. It can be a relentless grind that begins to feel like a mental labyrinth. Yet, paradoxically, it is this very struggle that has ignited a deeper passion within me—a burning desire to forge ahead toward my aspirations. Challenges often serve as the crucible in which our motivations are tested, compelling us to reflect on our purpose and the nature of our efforts. They illuminate the paths we tread and highlight the commitments we hold dear. Through this tumultuous journey, I have gained a renewed



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awareness of the people who matter most in my life, the obligations I hold, and the areas where my productivity falters. In this revelation, I find a sense of gratitude and a profound blessing—a recognition that the challenges we face can lead to transformative growth and clarity. But MOST importantly, working in legal advocacy is simply rewarding; it eases my fears about the future. Helping those more vulnerable than myself changes my perspective. I feel happy, hopeful, and ready.