



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	Rutgers School of Law
ORGANIZATION	AIDs Law Project of Pennsylvania

Final Reflection:

This past summer, I had the privilege of working at the AIDs Law Project of Pennsylvania. This organization provides free legal services to clients facing overlapping challenges related to health, housing, and immigration status; issues which are often compounded by stigma and systemic discrimination.

During my internship, I primarily supported attorneys in both immigration and housing matters and occasionally assisted in divorce cases. I did client intake interviews and determined what legal issues were occurring and what level of assistance they needed. My work included conducting legal research, drafting client declarations, preparing filings for immigration relief (including adjustment of status and VAWA), and interviewing clients. I also worked on eviction defense cases, helping clients respond to notices, prepare for housing court appearances, and negotiate settlements to prevent displacement. I also got to shadow our housing attorney in municipal court proceedings. I had the opportunity to work closely with clients to understand their stories, document their medical and legal needs, and advocate for their right to remain safely housed and in the country.

Specifically, I worked on a VAWA case that involved interviewing the client, drafting a narrative, and compiling all of the information into a VAWA application statement. I also assisted in filing the VAWA petition and submitting necessary documents. I also worked on a housing case that involved a property that was being neglected by a landlord. I did a home visit with my managing attorney, and we took photos of all of the problems in the house. We used these photos to build up a defense case against nonpayment of rent, as the tenant was legally withholding till repairs were made. Both of these experiences gave me hands-on experience in public interest work.



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Additionally, I participated in community outreach efforts, including housing rights clinics and AIDS resource workshops, many of which were held in partnership with local health providers and community-based organizations like Philadelphia Fight. These initiatives aimed to make legal support more accessible and responsive to the needs of people living with HIV in the Philadelphia area. This internship deepened my understanding of how legal advocacy can address structural inequities and protect the rights of vulnerable populations. It strengthened my skills in client-centered advocacy and reinforced my commitment to pursuing a career in public interest law in Philadelphia. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to work that affirms dignity, safety, and justice for people living with HIV.

Thank you to Equal Justice America for contributing to my professional development and supporting Philadelphians living with HIV. My time with the AIDS Law Project of PA was extremely informative and a great introduction to the public interest world in Philadelphia.