



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Final Reflection:

As I wrap up my summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow with Texas Advocacy Project, Inc., I've been reflecting on what this experience has meant to me, not only as a law student but as a future public interest lawyer committed to expanding access to justice.

This summer, I had the privilege of working alongside an extraordinary team of attorneys and staff who dedicate their careers to supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. My work spanned from being on Hope Line calls to drafting petitions for divorce, custody, and protective orders, to helping with crisis consultations referred directly from law enforcement. Each project deepened my understanding of how the law can be a lifeline when paired with advocacy rooted in compassion.

I learned that there is no "typical" client story. Survivors come from every background and face intersecting challenges: trauma, financial insecurity, childcare responsibilities, and threats to their ongoing safety. Some were ready to move forward with a protective order or divorce. Others simply needed information, reassurance, or time to process. Many were navigating the court system without an attorney by their side. What tied these stories together was the enormous courage it takes to seek help and the way legal advocacy can open doors to safety, stability, and healing.

The victories I witnessed were often quiet but profound: a protective order granted, a survivor leaving court with a sense of safety, or a client ending a call with relief after learning they had rights and options they never knew existed. These moments reminded me that the impact of



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public interest law isn't always measured in sweeping legal reforms, but in the day-to-day work of helping one client, one family, and building one safer tomorrow at a time.

Working at TAP has strengthened my commitment to public interest law and to building a career centered on access to justice for marginalized communities. I've seen firsthand how essential free, compassionate, and accessible legal services are for people navigating systems that often feel overwhelming and isolating. And I've seen the difference public interest lawyers can make when they not only explain the law, but also walk beside their clients in moments of fear, uncertainty, and hope.

I'm excited to share that I'll be continuing my work with Texas Advocacy Project this fall semester and look forward to building on the lessons and experiences from this summer. I'm deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for funding this fellowship and to Texas Advocacy Project for mentoring me through such meaningful work.