



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	Stanford Law School
ORGANIZATION	The Legal Aid Society (NYC)

Final Reflection:

This week, I am wrapping up my summer internship at The Legal Aid Society. When I started applying for law school two years ago, I was inspired from my experiences and background to pursue my passion for education law and policy, but I had little idea of what working in education law looked like. Working on Legal Aid's Education Law Project this summer has not only opened my eyes to different angles of working in education law ranging from direct services to impact litigation, but it has also been the best opportunity to closely work with and even meet many of our clients and their families face-to-face. Education is such a core part of the fabric of our society, yet educational needs can easily be overlooked either on a public scale in terms of funding and resource access or on the individual scale when one student's difficulties learning and engaging with peers in school may go unnoticed for years before a concern is raised. I've deeply appreciated and learned so much from talking to families and schools in different settings: during intake interviews at our office where a family feels heard when sharing about tough school experiences, on school visits where children explore new educational possibilities that can better meet their needs, or even in suspension hearings when I've gotten to ask hearing officers to reduce suspension times for students while sitting across from a school administrator in the room. I've also grown in my research and writing skills to better focus on creating a thorough narrative that tells the story of each client, beyond grades on a report card. Ultimately, this summer has deepened my interest in education law, which I'm excited to keep pursuing through my joint JD/MA in Education, but it has also so clearly demonstrated to me the need for lawyers to stand alongside and best advocate for impacted clients in any areas.

I'm deeply grateful to the Education Law Project team at Legal Aid for allowing me to work on any and every kind of case and project this summer, and I am excited to take the skills and experience I've gained this summer to continue becoming the best advocate for my clients in the future.