



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Davis Han
LAW SCHOOL	University of Chicago Law School
ORGANIZATION	University of Chicago's Abrams Environmental Law Clinic

Final Reflection:

My name is Davis Han and I am both humbled and grateful to have been selected for a 2025 EJA fellowship while working as a Summer Law Clerk for the University of Chicago's Abrams Environmental Law Clinic. Abrams provides free legal representation to clients facing unjust environmental and energy-related harms. Having worked extensively on environmental justice policy as a staffer in the California State Senate, I have long been passionate about fighting to guarantee a just and equitable energy transition. Particularly as national lawmakers implement new policies with profound impacts on energy access and affordability nationwide, I am grateful for EJA's support in allowing me to make tangible contributions in this space.

I primarily worked this summer to support the clinic's representation of two Detroit-based energy justice non-profit organizations, Soulardity and We Want Green Too, who are challenging DTE Electric Company's (DTE) application for a \$550 million rate increase before the Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC). Specifically, I drafted more than 60 pages of direct testimony on behalf of our lead witness, the Executive Director of Soulardarity, a process which included extensive research and submission of three discovery requests. The arguments I crafted touched on various aspects of the Company's application, from the need for a more comprehensive affordability program to the flawed methodology the Company uses to evaluate the environmental justice impacts of its grid investments. The drafting process included regular, direct collaboration with our clients. I attended the clinic's weekly client check-in meetings to provide updates on my research and address any questions or concerns before drafting the related section of testimony.

I am grateful to have participated in such impactful work this summer to advance energy and environmental justice. DTE has already raised rates on its customers three times in the past four years. Detroit's low-income and BIPOC households already have among the highest energy



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burdens (the percentage of income spent on energy costs) in the nation and simply cannot absorb another increase without compromising health and safety and/or sacrificing other basic needs. Thanks to the continued advocacy of our clients, the MPSC previously ordered DTE to conduct a pilot of a Percentage of Income Payment Plan, which caps low-income customers' payments at an affordable energy burden based on their annual income. We are optimistic that we can convince the MPSC to require that DTE implement a permanent PIPP program in the current rate case. Moreover, we are hopeful that additional arguments we raised in our testimony and briefing will lead to increased environmental justice investments, more equitable rate structures, and disallowance of using ratepayer dollars to fund political advocacy.

Being an EJA Fellow has been invaluablely helpful in allowing me to pursue a long-term career in public interest law. I have been financially independent since I was an undergraduate student and am paying for law school primarily through student loans; the support I received through EJA to cover my living expenses while working for the Abrams Clinic will allow me to pay off my debt and transition from private practice to the non-profit sector sooner. Moreover, I gained invaluable experience that will be directly applicable in my desired future work as an environmental litigator. Finally, I appreciated the opportunity to connect with other EJA fellows who are committed to using their legal education to advance all forms of justice. During a time in which the legal rights of vulnerable communities are under unprecedented attack, EJA's investment in our professional development is more important than ever before.