



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Jonathan Kim
LAW SCHOOL	University of Chicago Law School
ORGANIZATION	The Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School

Final Reflection:

I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America and its donors for supporting my fellowship as a legal intern at the University of Chicago Law School's Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic this summer. Your generosity made it possible for me to dedicate myself fully to serving clients whose work directly impacts access to affordable housing in Chicago and explore my interests in transactional legal careers.

During my 8 weeks at the Clinic, I had the privilege of assisting nonprofit organizations as they sought to incorporate, purchase real estate to develop into affordable housing, and navigate complex tax issues. Seeing the challenges they faced, and the legal complexities fostered an appreciation for my legal education and the necessity of the work I was involved with on a daily basis. I also worked with individuals who would ultimately benefit from these housing projects, giving me a direct view into how transactional legal work can expand access to safe and affordable homes.

My responsibilities included reviewing contracts, drafting and revising bylaws and operating agreements, and advising clients on tax matters. I also had the unique opportunity to see matters through to conclusion by participating in three real estate closings. At my very first closing, it was exciting to see the fruition of my labor and hopeful anticipation by the clients that those most in need of affordable housing will finally be able to secure not only a roof over their heads, but the security to pursue avenues for social mobility and economic prosperity such as education and job training. These experiences were invaluable, not only because they honed my legal skills, but also because they showed me the immediate and tangible impact transactional



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law can have in advancing social good. This fall, I intend to continue working at the Clinic and gain further experience and academic credit.

This fellowship solidified my commitment to a career in transactional law, particularly in contexts where legal expertise can empower community organizations and promote housing stability. It also built upon my prior professional work in housing and nonprofit organizations, creating a strong foundation for my future legal career. As housing stability continues to impact the lives of Americans, I am grateful to have received funding for this work.

I am thankful to Equal Justice America for making this internship possible. The support of your donors allowed grow tremendously as an aspiring lawyer.