



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Laura Greer
LAW SCHOOL	University of Michigan Law School
ORGANIZATION	Civil Rights Litigation Initiative (CRLI) at Michigan Law School

Final Reflection:

My time this summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow working with the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative (CRLI) at Michigan Law School taught me many things. I honed research and writing skills, learned how to work with clients in a client-centered fashion, and was challenged to expand my comfort zone. But the biggest thing that I gained from this summer was validating that the public interest path, particularly seeking to vindicate civil rights, is the right path for me.

My highlight of the summer was getting a chance to work on a case that challenged the Trump administration's partial vacatur and eventual termination of Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants. Approximately 348,000 Haitian immigrants currently call the U.S. home due to a designation of TPS for Haiti. After the Trump administration initially shortened the designation duration by 6 months, CRLI served as co-counsel challenging that illegal shortening of the length of the TPS designation. Throughout the summer, my colleagues and I were tasked with researching and drafting several memos that informed the next strategic steps our team made in litigation. I was both energized and deeply humbled knowing that the work that I did could affect the lives of so many.

On July 1, I experienced my first big win as student-attorney, when our team learned that the court granted our motion for summary judgment. The court ruled that the Trump administration had acted unlawfully by ignoring statutory protections ensuring TPS recipients receive sufficient notice of termination when they shortened the TPS designation. While my own contributions to the case had been minimal compared to those that wrote our briefs and argued our case in court, I was still deeply moved by the many Haitian immigrants that our team heard from who expressed their thanks. Experiencing that win—especially at a time when civil liberties are threatened from every angle—reaffirmed why it is so important that we continue to do this work and why we need to continue to support organizations like Equal Justice America that



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

enable so many to fight that fight. And the fight certainly continues. While CRLI may have won the first round, the Trump administration announced that they will terminate, not just shorten, TPS status for Haitian immigrants. My last half of the summer was helping to gear up to fight that new termination.

My summer was full of wins. Some were big, like the Haitian TPS case, and others were small, like when a client thanked me for listening to them. But with each win, I was reminded of how public interest work advances the common good in big and little ways every day even if most of them don't make headlines. Especially in the times we live in today, the stakes feel higher than ever and the need for more law students to engage in public interest work increases. I was only able to experience my summer of wins due to the support that the EJA Fellowship gave me. I remain grateful for EJA's support and for the opportunity to engage in this work.