



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Legal Services of South Central Michigan – Michigan Advocacy Program

Final Reflection:

I am writing to share my experience as a Summer Fellow with your organization. I want to start by thanking you all for your support and for the opportunity to work as an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer. I was able to have such an enriching summer that helped further solidify my commitment to public interest work. This experience would not have been possible without your organization's generosity, for which I am utterly grateful.

This summer, I worked with the Michigan Advocacy Program within the Family Law Project. In this role, I was able to work with low-income individuals who have experienced domestic violence throughout a variety of family law matters.

The majority of my time this summer was spent interacting with clients. My fellow interns and I were prospective clients' first point of contact. We were responsible for conducting initial interviews with people who reached out to us or were referred to us from a shelter, then sharing their stories with our supervising attorneys. I was able to work with several new clients throughout the progression of their cases over the summer and also jump in on cases the attorneys were already working on. I spent lots of time on the phone with current clients helping them better understand the legal process while also speaking with them about what their end goals were in their various situations.

The clients that we served often came to us in a time of crisis – whether they were needing a PPO immediately for their safety, losing housing due to them leaving a relationship, or wanting to change a current parenting time arrangement due to fear for their child's safety. Knowing I was assisting people when they were in such vulnerable, uncertain times was by far the most rewarding part of my summer. Just in the 10 weeks I was with the Family Law Project, I was able to work on several cases where we were able to finalize someone's contentious divorce,



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work out a parenting time arrangement in a child's best interest, and fight for clients' need to have a PPO enforced. Having such tangible impacts on people's lives and well-being is exactly the type of work I always envisioned myself doing.

I appreciated this opportunity to work so closely with clients to help advocate for their needs in the courtroom. Discussing clients' often traumatic experiences with them allowed me to grow in a number of ways. I was able to figure out how to utilize a person's personal experiences in a legal setting while developing a strong sense of trauma-informed client-interaction skills. This allowed me to work on my storytelling skills, which I find at the heart of being an effective, client-driven lawyer.

Throughout the summer, I gained practical skills—drafting legal documents, conducting client intakes, attending court hearings—but more importantly, I gained a deeper appreciation for the role of public interest lawyers in promoting dignity, justice, and stability in people's lives. The support from Equal Justice America made it financially possible for me to pursue this fellowship, and I am sincerely thankful for that.

This experience has reaffirmed my commitment to a career in public interest law. I plan to continue working with underserved communities throughout law school and beyond, and I know that the foundation I built this summer will be essential to that path.

Thank you again for your generous support of law students like me who are committed to public interest work. It has truly been an honor to serve as an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer.