



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Meredith Folensbee
LAW SCHOOL	University of Michigan Law School
ORGANIZATION	Michigan Law's Civil Rights Litigation Initiative

Final Reflection:

Thank you Equal Justice America for making my summer possible. EJA gave me the chance to not only explore but also confirm that public interest law is my future.

As a Student Attorney with Michigan Law's Civil Rights Litigation Initiative, I had the opportunity to take on real cases with true impact. In one of my cases, I worked with two women who were forced out of their home due to threatening racial harassment. After having lived in their home for 10 years, they had to upend their lives out of fear for their own well-being. Throughout the summer, their strength and gratitude was clear. They were so appreciative of our time and the fact that we cared so deeply about them finally getting justice.

This case also allowed me to flex the legal skills that I spent the entire past year cultivating. I caught myself checking my Civ Pro outline throughout the summer as we worked through the discovery process! I had the opportunity to draft initial disclosures and discovery requests, interview lay and expert witnesses, and research relevant case law in response. Given the nuances of the case, I also had the opportunity to respond to a declaratory action complaint when the defendant's insurance company denied liability. Having two cases play out at the same time helped me see the nuances of law in action. I am so grateful to have had the chance to get my feet on the ground and do the work it actually takes to practice law.

I was also able to put my newfound legal research and writing skills to work. Given the increased attention and scrutiny that universities across the country have been receiving by the Trump administration, I was tasked with researching potential First Amendment defenses against future funding attacks on law school clinics on behalf of the Clinical Legal Education Association. This



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was a great opportunity to see just how high legal stakes can be and to see how relevant and important the skills we learn in class really are.

Additionally, I was able to collaborate with community organizers in an effort to repeal racially restrictive covenants on property deeds in Washtenaw County. This work helped me see how interconnected the law is in each and every community. It was really powerful to work with members of our community to create resources that will truly make an impact.

After this summer, I am all the more certain the public interest law is my calling. I am excited to see where the road leads. Thank you EJA for making it possible.