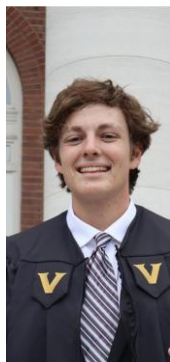




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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|---------------------|--|
| NAME | Pierce Bivens |
| LAW SCHOOL | University of Michigan Law School |
| ORGANIZATION | University of Michigan Clinical Programs |

Final Reflection:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the generous financial support you provided for my summer working at the University of Michigan Law School's clinical programs. Your assistance allowed me to dedicate my summer to public interest legal work, and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve clients who otherwise would not have had meaningful access to justice.

This summer, I was fortunate to work in three of Michigan's clinics: the Veterans' Legal Clinic, the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic, and the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic. Across these clinics, I was able to gain invaluable hands-on experience while advocating for individuals and families facing complex and often life-altering challenges.

Over the course of the summer, I contributed to six different cases. At the Veterans' Legal Clinic, I worked closely with three clients who had served our country but were now facing serious legal obstacles. In one matter, I assisted a veteran in a consumer protection case, helping him navigate a company's inadequate performance on a contract and optimize his outcomes under the circumstances. In another case, I supported a veteran in a post-judgment contract case, which involved sensitive intra-family disputes and learning how to file appellate documents. Finally, I assisted a veteran in a custody case, where I represented my client before the Friend of the Court and learned about alternative dispute resolution.

At the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic, I helped represent an indigent woman who was wrongfully denied compensation by her car insurance company. This case was particularly meaningful, as it demonstrated how difficult it can be for low-income individuals to secure the benefits and protections to which they are entitled.



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With the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic, I worked to ensure the rights of a child who was repeatedly suspended from school. My main role was obtaining access to medical services that adequately catered to the child's individual circumstances and history of adverse experiences. Additionally, I had the privilege of supporting my co-clinicians in petitioning the state to provide medical assistance for two children born with serious birth defects. This case underscored the critical importance of legal advocacy in securing life-saving support for vulnerable children, and it left me with a profound appreciation for the intersection of law, medicine, and social justice.

Through these experiences, I developed both professionally and personally. I learned how to conduct client interviews with compassion, draft persuasive motions, and navigate challenging negotiations. More importantly, I came to see the law not simply as a set of rules but as a tool for empowerment and equity. I am profoundly grateful to Equal Justice America for making this work possible. Thank you for investing in my development as an advocate and for supporting the communities I was able to serve this summer.