



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2025

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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### Final Reflection:

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to work with Anishinabe Legal Services (ALS) and help provide legal services for the White Earth, Red Lake, and Leech Lake nations. Going into the summer I wasn't sure what to expect. Like most law students, I understood what legal aid was, but seeing it in practice put things into a different perspective. Seeing how many cases the lawyers were handling, how they needed to sift through the information given to them by clients to identify the legal issue they're having gave me a clearer picture of the unique challenges these legal aid services face.

In my time with ALS, I worked on tens of cases where I would speak with clients, research their issues, wrote memos for the complicated cases, all to provide the best legal services possible to the clients who can't afford legal services otherwise. While I was there, I helped on cases to keep young individuals and families facing eviction stay in their homes, assisted elders with healthcare directives, and conducted in-depth research that seriously increased the capacity of the lawyers at ALS. It is very meaningful to me to walk away from my summer experience knowing I helped people in ways that has the capacity to change their lives.

But I also learned this summer just how much more legal aid services we need across America. I was shocked by the volume of cases I saw come into ALS in just one summer, and according to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), that only accounts for about 20% of the legal issues faced by Low-income individuals. These are Low-Income individuals facing issues related to housing, healthcare, disability access, and domestic violence and LSC estimates that 86% of them receive insufficient legal help or no legal help at all. This summer has made it clear to me that this is a serious problem our country faces, as while these low-income individuals aren't facing criminal



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charges, they are in legal battles that can follow them for the rest of their lives making it harder to find housing or get the healthcare services they rightfully deserve. While I walk away from this summer knowing I made a serious difference for the clients I helped, I also know there is so much more aid these people need.

I am eternally grateful to Anishinabe Legal Services, the Minnesota Justice Foundation, and Equal Justice America for providing me this opportunity to contribute my skills to legal aid for the summer, and the lessons and knowledge shared by everyone at ALS. And to everyone reading this, please continue to support increased funding for legal aid services, so less people go without this critical support!