



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2025

### EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



<b>NAME</b>	Michele Chadwick
<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	UC Law San Francisco
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Open Door Legal

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#### Final Reflection:

As my internship comes to a close, I am exceptionally grateful for the opportunity to work at Open Door Legal this summer. The mentorship and guidance of Gwen Wu and Leslie Pang-Dykeman inspired me and changed my career path. Over the past few months, I observed firsthand the kindness, care, and patience given to each client and received the same.

Coming into the summer, I started in Open Door Legal's Estate Planning and Probate team with zero experience in these fields. Now, I will leave with more tools in my tool belt. I spent these weeks speaking directly with clients from our communities, brainstorming client strategy, and learning so much. I appreciate the dedication of my supervisors in finding new assignments for me to explore my interests and the constant feedback that I will carry forward with me. These last weeks, I searched title deeds, reviewed client documents to flag legal issues, and drafted estate plans and affidavits. While working at ODL, my practical skills doubled. My supervisors provided many engaging tasks and graciously allowed me the flexibility throughout my summer to develop my career in other aspects as well.

Working in estate planning, I found providing preemptive legal aid very uplifting. By creating estate plans, we ensure that our clients secure their wishes about their property and how our clients want to be treated while in a vulnerable state. Further, estate planning avoids costly, time-consuming probate for our clients' families, ensuring that our clients secure generational wealth. I deeply value ODL's commitment to legal services for all and will cherish the memories I made this summer.



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While working under Gwen and Leslie, I developed a strong interest in aiding families. In guiding our clients through these uncomfortable legal topics, I developed a relationship with my clients and learned so much about their families and lives. I enjoyed my summer at ODL so much it influenced my legal education. This fall semester, I continue my education at UC Law SF. I enrolled in Wills and Trusts to further cultivate my growing interest in estate planning. As my legal journey continues, I am grateful for such a valuable learning experience.

If you are passionate about making the law accessible to everyone, please consider donating to Equal Justice America to help law students like me continue their work in public service.