



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Daniel Green
LAW SCHOOL	UCLA School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Bronx Defenders

Final Reflection:

I am incredibly grateful to the Bronx Defenders for an amazing summer of growth and service, and to Equal Justice America for making the summer financially possible! When I began law school, I could not have possibly predicted that I would be on the path I'm on now, and a huge part of my journey was the decision to take a risk and apply for and accept a summer internship in New York City, working on issues I'd only ever tackled in moot court and other simulations.

This summer, I was a legal intern in the Impact Litigation Practice of the Bronx Defenders, a kind of legal job I didn't even know existed before law school—who would have thought that a public defense office would have civil rights attorneys on staff? I was fortunate enough to work on many different cases, with assignments ranging from a fifteen-page memo on a question of first impression under New York procedural statutes to same-day-turnaround discovery dispute questions to case development based on FOIL results. Maybe the best part of work, though, was getting to watch the amazing attorneys from Bronx Defenders (and co-counsel) litigate in court in person. Watching my supervisor trounce a lawyer for the city in a discovery conference and then watching the conversation outside the courtroom immediately after taught me more about the meaning of public interest litigation than any class possibly could. Watching an amazing lawyer from our Immigration Practice argue a habeas petition in federal court was originally inspiring, and then incredibly sobering when the decision came down against our client.

An underrated part of the experience, especially for me (having never lived in New York City before) was just getting to live in New York for the summer and be part of the public interest and public defense community there. There were 18 other legal interns, all overwhelmingly smart and passionate, and I made what I hope are lasting friendships there. I also was lucky



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enough to have two good friends interning for other public defense offices in the city, and getting to explore the city with them was a wonderful perk beyond description.

I am hoping to return to the Bronx Defenders next year following graduation, as they are sponsoring me for project-based and school-sponsored fellowships to work on an incredibly important issue: property recovery on behalf of those whose property is taken at the time of arrest with only the faintest semblance of process for recovery. This would not have been possible without the assistance of EJA and for that I am incredibly grateful.