



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Ella Missan
LAW SCHOOL	University of Virginia School of Law
ORGANIZATION	MacArthur Justice Center

Final Reflection:

I had an incredible time interning at the MacArthur Justice Center's Supreme Court and Appellate Practice in DC this summer.

In this role, I had the privilege of working on several challenging and high-stakes appellate legal issues, each having a direct impact on the lives of incarcerated individuals. For example, I helped draft an amicus brief that was filed in the Michigan Court of Appeals arguing that the Michigan Constitution's Due Process Clause protects incarcerated individuals' right to in-person family visitation. This required finding caselaw demonstrating that (1) the Michigan courts need not read the Michigan constitution as coextensive with the federal Constitution, and (2) the Michigan's Due Process clause should be read more protectively than the federal Constitution given the state's unique interest in family integrity and rehabilitation. This case has the potential to advance justice for incarcerated people and their families by ensuring that the Michigan government cannot take away family visitation privileges without a legitimate reason. This case was particularly exciting to work on at a time where public interest lawyers across the country are increasingly relying on state constitutions to achieve justice for their clients.

This summer, I also had the opportunity to conduct social science research for an amicus brief that was filed in the Supreme Court of the United States. The case concerns whether the fugitive tolling doctrine should apply to individuals on supervised release. If the doctrine did apply, individuals would not receive credit toward their time on supervised release for "absconding" (e.g. changing their address without notifying the probation office, missing drug tests, or going missing). My research showcased that there are many obstacles to successful reentry for individuals on supervised release, including in employment, housing, and transportation. It further



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demonstrated that these obstacles impact individuals ability to comply with post-release conditions. This research was ultimately used to argue that the fugitive tolling doctrine should not be applicable in the supervised release context. The stakes of this case are high for individuals who may fail to satisfy conditions of supervised release through little fault of their own due to the compounding challenges of reentry from prison.

The brilliant lawyers at MacArthur demonstrated how to be both a fierce and responsible advocate. They also provided extensive training on effective appellate writing and oral advocate. Witnessing their work furthered my commitment to public interest lawyering, specifically in the civil rights and impact-litigation space. The Equal Justice America funding made it possible for me to have this meaningful experience. After clerking for the next couple years, I am beyond excited to enter the workforce and work on cases directly impacting the lives of the millions of Americans impacted by the criminal legal system.