



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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ORGANIZATION	ACLU of NC

Final Reflection:

My time at the ACLU-NC has come to an end. This summer has taught me a great deal about the work done by nonprofit civil liberties organizations such as the ACLU-NC. I was able to work on a wide range of issues, ranging from First Amendment work to emerging immigration issues. Further, I was able to contribute to ongoing litigation through cite checking, research legal issues for brief drafting, and sit in on client calls. And I was able to assist in preparing the organization for potential future efforts through drafting memorandum focused on emerging issues in the state. The work being done by the ACLU-NC is wide-ranging, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work and learn at such an organization.

The work done by an organization like the ACLU-NC is not just about filing lawsuits. It's about monitoring the state, responding to community partners, and serving as a watchdog for bad actors. An example of this was our effort to assist in ensuring that North Carolinians could exercise their First Amendment rights. Through issuing a public-facing letter, these individuals were able to gather in accordance with their rights.

I learned a great deal this summer. Primarily, I learned what it means to have a client-centered approach to legal practice – the work done by the ACLU-NC is motivated by individuals and the issues they face, and every step done by the organization is run through them. I also learned that legal work is just a piece of larger advocacy approach; working in the civil liberties space is a team effort, and requires political work, community-mobilization, and more to accomplish lasting change. And lastly, this experience reinforced the importance of civil liberties organizations. Community partners turned to the ACLU-NC on a range of issues and sought advice on a wide-range of issues faced across the state. The work done by legal nonprofits is essential to ensuring that *all* individuals can access legal counsel and understand the legal system. I am grateful to have been able to contribute to such an organization.