



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Qiu (Rachel) Li
LAW SCHOOL	Washington University School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid Society, New York

Final Reflection:

This summer at the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice in New York was one of the most formative experiences of my legal education so far. Working directly with attorneys, caseworkers, and clients gave me an unfiltered view of how the law operates on the ground. The experience taught me to see the human side of the law, practicing the law with both empathy and professionalism. I gained first-hand exposure to courtroom advocacy, from observing permanency hearings and trials to drafting legal documents. These opportunities sharpened my ability to think quickly, adapt my questions in real time, and synthesize complex facts into clear, persuasive arguments.

Beyond the legal skills I developed, this summer reinforced the importance of client-centered lawyering and the value of public interest work in ensuring access to justice. It reminded me that being an effective advocate requires not only legal knowledge but also cultural awareness, active listening, and the ability to earn trust. I leave this internship with a deeper commitment to carrying these lessons forward into my legal career, whatever the setting.

Lastly, I am grateful for Equal Justice America's support, support from The Legal Aid, and WashU. I am blessed to have worked with a group of brilliant and caring of Legal Aid. They didn't just teach me how to be a lawyer; they inspired me to envision the kind of lawyer I want to become: passionate and optimistic in spirit. Wherever my career takes me, I will always carry these values and passion with me. Thank you once again for an extraordinary internship experience.