



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

**Summer 2025**

## EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



<b>NAME</b>	Jeffrey E. Seabury, Jr.
<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	West Virginia University, College of Law
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Legal Aid of West Virginia, Morgantown

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### Final Reflection:

This summer, I had the privilege of serving as an Equal Justice America Fellow with Legal Aid of West Virginia. Over the course of my fellowship, I had the opportunity to work directly on cases that impacted some of the most vulnerable members of our community, and I was able to see firsthand how civil legal aid can make the difference between stability and crisis for a client. My work spanned a variety of legal issues, including property law, landlord-tenant disputes, expungements, domestic violence cases, and adoptions. I drafted numerous briefs and motions, including a motion to dismiss that was successfully argued in Magistrate Court, and a motion for summary judgment in a wrongful occupation case on appeal advocating for a tenant. Each case challenged me to apply the skills I gained during my first year of law school in new and practical ways, requiring careful research, clear writing, and attention to procedural detail.

I also spent significant time in the courtroom, observing hearings on the domestic violence docket, eviction proceedings, and property disputes. These experiences taught me that effective advocacy is not one-size-fits-all; attorneys adapt their style to the personalities of their clients and the judges they appear before. Watching these dynamics unfold in real time was invaluable to my professional development.

While the victories were rewarding, such as helping a tenant avoid an unjust eviction, some cases underscored the limits of what the legal system can accomplish for clients facing systemic barriers. These moments reinforced my belief that public interest law requires not just legal skill, but patience, empathy, and a willingness to keep fighting even when the odds are long. Personally, this summer affirmed my commitment to a career in public service, particularly in areas that advance disability rights and housing stability. I am grateful to my supervising



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attorney, whose guidance and humor made even challenging days productive and rewarding, and to the entire team at Legal Aid of West Virginia for welcoming me into their work.

Finally, I am deeply thankful to Equal Justice America for funding this fellowship and for its mission to ensure equal access to justice. The lessons I learned this summer will shape my approach to the law for the rest of my career.