



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Center for Employment Justice

Update 1:

I've been working for an employment justice firm, the Center for Employment Justice, this summer. Most recently I have had the opportunity to help on a class action that will hopefully reinstate a large amount of federal employees that were wrongfully terminated. As an EJA Fellow, Equal Justice America has sponsored my internship and granted me a stipend, so I wanted to shout them out for helping myself and hundreds of other law students pursue meaningful work like this. Without their funding these types of jobs would be inaccessible to many J.D. candidates.

Update 2:

A few updates on the job! I have been working on lots of discovery for the last few weeks, mostly sifting through various phone calls and videos to gather evidence for an ongoing case that I cannot talk about. In addition, I have been given the exciting opportunity to communicate with a client to help draft their complaint with the attorneys. Lots to do but it's going well!

Update 3:

I have had an exciting week! I finished up the discovery work I had been doing and helped draft my first motion! It was just a motion to extend, but still exciting! I also conducted my first interview and helped draft my first declaration. Lastly, I did a little bit of work on a spoliation issue that was raised in one of our cases.

Update 4:

I have done a lot over the last week and a half! I have helped to file an opposition to a motion to dismiss in another employment discrimination case, worked on discovery, helped file several motions to extend, and did some administrative tasks. It's been a busy time but it's going well!



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It's really nice to be doing work that benefits people that need legal aid, and the structure of CEJ means that help is available to almost anyone, not just those who have money to burn on court cases. I have mostly been working on cases involving whistleblower protection within MPD, which is very meaningful to me since it helps hold our police administration accountable for their wrongdoings and promotes a better police culture in our city.

Final Reflection:

I learned a lot about the innerworkings of employment law this summer. I was given the opportunity to assist experienced employment lawyers in drafting motions, doing legal research, searching through evidence, and interviewing clients.

Learning to draft motions has been extremely useful since it has given me my first taste of real legal work. It was very exciting to see motions that I had helped write actually be filed in the court system.

Searching through discovery was admittedly not the most exciting task, but I learned over time how to efficiently scan through discovery to find useful evidence. Legal research was a recurring task during my time at CEJ. I did not expect to enjoy it as much as I did, but it was quite exciting to be tasked with a legal issue and given time to scour WestLaw and Lexis to find applicable cases and statutes. Not only was that enjoyable, but it gave me more experience with Lexis and Westlaw, programs I am becoming more comfortable with as time goes on.

My favorite experience this summer was being able to interact with clients. There was one case I spent a lot of time on this summer- a police whistleblower case- where I was in direct contact with our client. He was a delightful older gentleman and was deeply concerned with the ethics and responsibility of the police department. That was the crux of the case (although I cannot obviously get into details). This man saw unethical behavior happening at his precinct and he was brave enough to stand up to his boss and his department, and he faced retaliation. This man was very appreciative of the legal aid provided by CEJ and was a joy to interact with. Spending some time with him was definitely the most impactful part of the summer, since it humanized all the legal work I had been doing to that point. I saw the actual person we were assisting, and how much it meant to him.

Overall, I learned a lot about the law and how this one type of civil law operates in practice. More importantly, I saw firsthand how important organizations like CEJ are to ensure that everyone can pursue justice, regardless of their financial situation.