



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	East Bay Community Law Center

Update 1: I am so excited to announce the start of my internship with East Bay Community Law Center, an incredible legal aid organization located in South Berkeley. This summer, I will be working with their Health Law & Public Benefits Clinic to assist clients with issues surrounding their Medi-Cal, Medicare, SSI, SSDI, CalFresh, and more! I have already begun helping clients with insurance appeals, SSI appeals, and initial SSDI applications.

East Bay Community Law Center was founded in 1988 by law students at UC Berkeley who wanted to provide legal aid and services to people in the community living with HIV and AIDS. The Health Law & Public Benefits Clinic currently receives funding from the federal Ryan White Grant and through our medical-legal partnership (MLP) with Highland Hospital's Adult Immunology Clinic to be able to assist clients living with HIV and AIDS in regard to a wide variety of legal issues at no cost. I am proud to carry on our organization's tradition of supporting those living with HIV and AIDS, many of whom experience barriers when it comes to accessing care and maintaining financial stability.

On June 5th, my wonderful supervisor invited me to East Bay Update, an annual conference held in Downtown Oakland that brings together different organizations and individuals who work towards preventing the spread of HIV and caring for those living with HIV and AIDS. I got to meet incredibly dedicated, hardworking people from @alamedacountypublichealth @eastbaygettingtozero @heppac_oakland and @lifelongmedicalcare and learn more about the work they do to support the East Bay HIV/AIDS community.

I'm grateful to be working for an organization that provides holistic care to those most vulnerable and to follow my dream of helping people. My work would not be possible without support from Equal Justice America, a national organization that has graciously offered to fund



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my internship this summer. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America through the link below so that they can continue to financially support law students working for legal aid organizations across the country.

Update 2: Over the last two weeks at East Bay Community Law Center, I have performed a lot more client work and started to expand on the issues I am assisting people with. I'm currently helping clients with Civil Records Requests, overpayments from Social Security, initial In-Home Supportive Services applications, and SSDI appeals. As a legal aid organization, we are able to provide all of these services at no cost to our clients.

I am incredibly proud to work at a legal aid organization that champions racial justice by supporting women of color. We know that women of color are often the backbone of entire communities, and by helping them with their issues—whether legal, financial, or material—we are also serving the vast networks of people who depend on them. As someone who experiences white privilege, I strive to be not only an advocate for women of color, but an accomplice who leverages my privilege to combat white supremacy.

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Update 3: Over the last few weeks at East Bay Community Law Center, I've continued to support clients with a wide array of legal issues. I'm currently helping clients with Social Security doctor appointments, SSDI appeals, Unemployment Insurance overpayments, and parking tickets.

On July 1st, a majority of the Health & Economic Security Team traveled to the California State Capitol to attend a Senate Health Committee hearing. Our organization is supporting multiple bills designed to mitigate the impact of HR-1 on Medi-Cal recipients.

All three of the bills we supported passed this Committee and moved on to the next step in the legislative process. I am proud to have spoken in support of AB 2161, a bill that would make the process by which counties redetermine the eligibility of Medi-Cal recipients easier on individuals.

Many of our clients have already struggled with our current recertification process and the paperwork and bureaucracy it entails. If these bills are passed into law, it would help prevent a large number of Californians from lapsing out of their health insurance coverage.



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Update 4: I am very sad to say that this is my last week working at East Bay Community Law Center. In my final two weeks, I have supported clients with initial CalFresh applications, creating medical record summaries, pulling credit reports, and locating resources.

Throughout my time this summer, I have worked hard to help my clients in a holistic way that looks beyond traditional notions of healthcare and legal aid. With the help of my amazing friends and family, I have created a guide that connects disabled people across the Bay Area with a wide variety of resources. This guide can be found at: bit.ly/ebclc-drg

I have also begun gathering and donating masks, zines, and rapid COVID tests to our organization so that the front desk can distribute these supplies to our clients at no cost. The vast majority of our clients in the Health Law & Public Benefits Clinic are disabled and are at an increased risk of severe infection which can result in further disability, hospitalization, or even death.

I am proud of the work that I have performed and the relationships I have built with my clients and coworkers. Everyone at this organization is incredible and provides a vast wealth of knowledge that I was honored to learn from. I hope to return in the future and continue supporting the local East Bay community.

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Final Reflection: During this summer, I had such an incredible, transformative experience. This was the first time I worked as a legal intern, and I was very nervous going into it. I was anxious about working with clients who were experiencing hardships, and what it would mean if I were to make a mistake and harm their case in some way. I was grateful for my amazing supervisor and our Health Law & Public Benefits team who supported me through this process and helped me grow into this role and gain confidence.

By the end of the summer, I had such a breadth of experience under my belt. I worked with seven different clients and helped them with initial SSDI applications, initial In-Home Supportive



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Services applications, initial CalFresh applications, consultative examinations, creating medical record summaries, SSI and SSDI appeals, medical insurance appeals, Unemployment Insurance overpayments, parking tickets, traffic violations, pulling credit reports, filing Civil Records Requests, and locating relevant resources.

For several of my clients, I made multiple home visits. These clients were low-income, had no means of transportation, and were disabled. The fact that I was able to visit them at their homes made a world of a difference for their cases, as it allowed me to collect important documents without requiring them to come to our office. If I had not been able to visit them at their homes, they simply would not have gotten the help they needed. I was happy to have the time and flexibility as an intern to drive to these clients' homes and give them the holistic care they deserve.

After all my work this summer, I have become very familiar with the resources available to disabled people in the Bay Area and the gaps that still exist. As a result, I created a resource guide to help disabled people locate resources across the Bay Area. I also started a mask and COVID test distribution site at our office with the support of the administrative team so that our clients can receive these supplies at no cost.

Because of the work I performed during my fellowship this summer, I now know that I would like to dedicate my legal career to helping those in need, especially those who are disabled. There is a plethora of barriers that disabled people experience. Many are trapped in poverty, unable to marry without risk of losing their benefits, and isolated from their larger communities, sometimes even their families. I'd like to work with those most impacted on the ground and use the knowledge I gain to fight for large-scale change that improves their quality of life.