



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Mobilization for Justice

Update 1: After completing my second year at Boston College Law School, I am excited to share that I have started my Equal Justice America fellowship this summer. I am spending my summer as a Legal Intern at Mobilization for Justice in New York City to support low-income tenants facing eviction. As it is near the end of my second week, I wanted to share a few highlights from the experience so far.

During my first two weeks, I received training on New York City housing law and eviction practice. I also had the opportunity to shadow attorneys in both Manhattan Housing Court and Bronx Housing Court. Observing court proceedings and settlement negotiations provided valuable insight into the fast-paced nature of housing advocacy and the practical realities of representing tenants.

One particularly meaningful experience was accompanying attorneys on a home visit to assess housing conditions firsthand. Seeing the issues affecting clients in their own living environments reinforced the importance of effective legal advocacy.

The Equal Justice America Fellowship is made possible by the generosity of donors who support law students committed to public-interest work. If you believe that access to justice should not depend on a person's income, I hope you will consider making a contribution. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps support fellows like me and expands access to legal services for those who need them most.

Update 2: I am excited to share my latest update from my internship this summer. Since my last update, I have been honing my legal research skills and continuing to learn how to be a better legal writer. Also, some of my most exciting moments have come outside the office. I had the opportunity to shadow court hearings at the New York Supreme Court,



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which broadened my perspective beyond housing court and into the broader landscape of litigation strategy and administrative law. Lastly, I have also started conducting client intakes, actively listening to people sharing their housing concerns.

This Equal Justice America fellowship has helped me reinforce why public interest law matters so deeply to me, and I am grateful for every experience that is shaping me into a more thoughtful advocate.

Update 3: I am excited to share my third update from my internship this summer. Since my last update, I have drafted my first answer and supporting memorandum and, with the guidance of my supervising attorney, successfully filed them with the court. I have also continued conducting client intakes, listening closely as clients share their housing concerns and helping them navigate challenging circumstances. This Equal Justice America fellowship has helped me reinforce why public interest law matters so deeply to me, and I am grateful for every experience that is shaping me into a more thoughtful advocate.

Update 4: I am excited to share my last Equal Justice America Fellowship update with you for this summer. Time flies, and my internship at Mobilization for Justice also has only two weeks left. I wanted to share my highlights one last time.

First, I had more opportunities for court shadowing, including negotiating with the opposing counsel and writing down settlement stipulations. MFJ also offered me the opportunity to have lunch with a housing court judge to hear her insights. I was grateful to learn about her background before becoming a judge and how those experiences shape her approach to the bench today.

Second, I drafted motions and pleadings, both petitions and answers, which are filings to provide legal solutions to tenants' immediate needs and to defend tenants in eviction cases. Working through each client's case pushed me to think critically about how to identify the issues that mattered most and to translate a client's situation into a clear legal argument. Third, I took on more intakes and tried to understand the clients' needs. Not all clients' needs are legally actionable, which taught me an important lesson. For instance, I learned staying within the legal context while still being honest and compassionate when giving advice, especially to clients who are navigating difficult circumstances.

Lastly, I provided legal research memos to attorneys on clients' issues that are not so easily resolved. Beyond compiling relevant case law, I also shared my own analysis and thoughts based on that research, which helped me being a genuine contributor to the team's strategy. I appreciate Boston College Law School, Mobilization for Justice, and Equal Justice America for providing this opportunity, which has reinforced why public interest work matters so deeply to



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the community. I am so grateful for every experience that is shaping me into a more thoughtful, capable advocate.

I am thankful to Equal Justice America for this fellowship and to everyone who has supported my journey.

Final Reflection: This summer at Mobilization for Justice taught me what it actually means to inhabit the role of a lawyer — a mindset I will carry for the rest of my career. My supervising attorneys, Kevin Duffy Greaves and Rebecca Arian, along with Claire Baker, Ben Cain, and Lea Kokenes on Kevin's team, pushed me to think and prepare like an advocate from day one, and I grew faster because of their mentorship.

The first lesson was about leverage. Identifying and arguing the legal issues underlying a client's case is not an academic exercise. It is arming someone who would otherwise walk into housing court alone. I came to understand how much procedural and substantive ammunition tenant defense actually has — motions, defenses, and negotiating positions that can shift a case toward a favorable settlement or even a trial win. Seeing that toolkit in action showed me exactly why right to counsel programs and organizations like MFJ matter so much; self-represented tenants routinely miss the very tools that could keep them housed.

The second lesson was about craft. Researching the legal theories behind complicated housing issues and translating that research into memos and drafted documents taught me how to write with precision under real stakes. I worked with clients from a wide range of backgrounds facing a wide range of problems, and one moment stands out. I drafted an advocacy letter requesting emergency financial assistance for a client behind on rent, and the funds came through. I still remember how grateful that client was to know they could stay in their home — a small task on paper that turned into someone keeping their apartment.

The third lesson was about people. Conducting client intakes and, at times, visiting clients in their homes taught me that lawyering is inseparable from empathy and adaptability. Every client's housing situation carried its own context, urgency, and fear, and learning to meet each one virtually and personally reshaped how I think about advocacy itself.

The last lesson was about being a housing attorney. Observing attorneys at various stages of litigation, from client counseling to trial representation, showed me that the job is far broader than any single skill I had practiced in isolation. I watched how an attorney's tone shifts in a client meeting, in a settlement conference and in front of a judge. I began to understand that good lawyering means knowing which register to use and when. I sat in on strategy discussions where attorneys weighed procedural motions against the practical realities of a client's life. It made clear that being a housing attorney means holding both the long view of a



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case's trajectory and the immediate needs of the person in front of you, and that balancing the two is a skill I am only beginning to develop.

Taken together, these lessons changed how I understand the profession I'm entering — technically rigorous, but only meaningful when grounded in genuine care for the people on the other side of the file.

I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for making this fellowship possible, and to everyone at MFJ who invested in my growth this summer. Thank you for your support.