



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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ORGANIZATION	New York Legal Assistance Group

Final Reflection:

My work this summer with the Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program at NYLAG allowed me to have a direct impact on individuals and families seeking assistance with ensuring they had the healthcare coverage and home care hours that they were entitled to. Many of the clients I worked with were either older adults and/or individuals with disabilities. It was very rewarding to assist people navigating such a convoluted healthcare system.

The most fulfilling aspect of my internship was helping older adults and individuals with disabilities remain in their communities safely and with dignity. The majority of the cases that I worked on were either individuals seeking an increase in their home care hours through Medicaid, or individuals whose hours had been cut back or eliminated by the insurance company. Without the requisite home care hours, many of our clients would have had to go to live in a nursing home or facility rather than aging in place.

I worked closely with many clients this summer, but one matter that has stuck with me was a case where the client had multiple sclerosis. The main contact on the matter was her sister, who was also dealing with many outside issues that impacted on her ability to advocate for her sister on her own. Me and my supervising attorney compiled medical records and other relevant documentation to support an External Appeal to get the client 24/7 split shift care. Without our advocacy, this client would very likely not have been able to remain in her home safely.

Additionally, I also worked on a long-term research project this summer. New York State recently made a change in the law pertaining to the standard by which an individual must meet to qualify for home care. My task was to track decisions relating to this issue by compiling the decisions and any relevant information I could gather from the decisions. This project was in support of potential future litigation to challenge the law on a broader scale.

My time at NYLAG this summer affirmed my passion for a future career providing direct legal aid to lower income individuals and families. I was trusted with much of the daily client



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communication required of an attorney for the first time as a law student. This made the positive impact that our work had for our clients much more real for me, as I was able to establish a level of trust and rapport with many of them. The concrete effects of my work made me even more confident that a career in public interest law is a path I will continue pursuing.