



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: After spending 3 weeks at the North Carolina Justice Center, I have already learned so much about the intersection of legal aid and legislative policy.

I have had the opportunity to work and speak with nonprofit organizations that do the necessary work to support marginalized communities and connect the NCJC with clients in need of legal assistance. Also, I have met amazing attorneys and got to learn about their path to public interest work.

I am excited to continue to serve local communities and learn more about how I can better serve them

Update 2: During my summer at the North Carolina Justice Center, I have had the opportunity to work on various projects such as housing, immigration, and education law. I have had the privilege to provide assistance in power of attorney clinics, where immigrant community members can feel at ease knowing that their children and assets are safe if something were to happen to them. Additionally, I have furthered accessibility for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by translating eviction defense manuals and name change applications.

I have come to appreciate and understand the importance of public interest work and legal aid in only a couple of weeks. I look forward to continuing to advocate for marginalized and impoverished community members who are now given a voice through the work of the NCJC.

Update 3: Now, I am in the final weeks of my internship. For every week that I have been with the NCJC, I have been more and more excited to begin new projects. Recently, I have been given



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the opportunity to draft a motion to recalendar and terminate removal proceedings. To complete this assignment, I spoke with the client regarding their case, which is something I had never done before.

While I had been able to complete previous assignments such as advice letters for driver's license restoration, speaking to clients and helping them understand what is going on behind the scenes with their cases has been the most fulfilling aspect of this internship.

As a member of the immigrant community, unfortunately, I know what it is like to deal with the fear of deportation. Through my internship, I have been able to use my cultural competency and bilingual skills as an asset. I have truly learned the importance of diversity and its power in building client relationships and trust.

Update 4: As I reach the final week of my internship, I've had the chance to reflect on everything the NCJC has given me. Earlier this week, I went door-to-door at an apartment complex to speak with tenants regarding their landlord's potential deceptive or excessive fees. As frustrating and heartbreaking as it was to hear about community members struggling to pay rent while their fees continue to rise, it gave us the insight necessary to build a case on their behalf.

Additionally, I was tasked with contacting former H-2A workers who are class members in a lawsuit against their previous employer. It is not only important to provide legal support for H-2A workers when their rights and liberties are violated, but it is also essential to ensure they have the support needed to access what they are rightfully owed.

Final Reflection: I have officially completed my 10-week internship with the North Carolina Justice Center this past week! I am truly grateful for the hands-on experience and exposure to public interest legal work that the NCJC provided throughout the summer.

During my time at the NCJC, I was able to contribute to all of NCJC's projects such as housing, education, immigration, workers rights, and driver's license expungements. While I gained valuable insight into each of these areas and strengthened my legal research and writing skills, I have also learned the importance of leading everyday with compassion. Serving individuals in their most vulnerable and difficult times of their lives requires lawyers to base their work in patience and empathy to advocate for their clients effectively.

I would like to thank all of the attorneys at the NCJC for believing in my abilities, providing me with opportunities to grow professionally, and taking the time to mentor me whenever I had questions. I would also like to give a special thank you to my internship supervisors and the entire NCJC team for welcoming me into such an amazing team of advocates this summer.



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This experience taught me so much about the need for legal aid in impoverished and marginalized communities. There is so much work to be done across various areas of law such as housing, immigration, and education. I am grateful to have been part of an organization that emphasizes a "people first" framework because I believe that is what lawyers should always strive to uphold.

Finally, I would like to thank Equal Justice America for selecting me as a EJA fellow and encouraging us to reflect intentionally on the impact and insights law students gain during their summer work. I will carry the skills and perspectives that I gained this summer with me as I continue my law school journey.