



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Kennedy Waterson
LAW SCHOOL	Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
ORGANIZATION	SeniorLAW Center

Update 1: A typical day involves shadowing client prescreening and intake calls, which has allowed me to see how a nonprofit evaluates potential cases. Through these conversations, I learned the types of questions attorneys and advocates ask to issue spot and connect individuals with available resources.

Update 2: Over the past two weeks, I have been assigned a number of different cases, which has given me a better sense of how to juggle competing deadlines. One of the more interesting projects I worked on has been locating potential defendants in tangled title matters. Because these cases often involve property owners who passed away years ago, finding the correct heirs can be surprisingly difficult. I have been using Lexis Public Records and doing a fair amount of independent research to piece together family relationships and track people down. What has surprised me most is that this kind of work is actually a regular part of the attorney's job. Before starting this internship, I never would have guessed that attorneys spend time searching public records just to figure out who should be included in a case.

Update 3: This week, I have been working on drafting advice letters for clients and had the opportunity to supervise a deposition. It was helpful to see the deposition process firsthand and how attorneys interact with clients and opposing counsel. I also observed how service works and learned that it can become surprisingly complicated when a defendant cannot be personally served or actively avoids service.

Update 4: This week, I had the opportunity to attend the preliminary hearing for a case involving a deposition that I sat in on two weeks ago. It was especially interesting to observe how the information I heard during the deposition fit into the broader progression of the case. I



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

was also surprised by what the judge chose to emphasize, how quickly some cases were dismissed, and the judge's willingness to work with pro se litigants.

Final Reflection: Looking back on this internship, I have gained a much better understanding of what public interest attorneys do on a daily basis and how varied their work truly is. While I expected to spend time researching legal issues and drafting documents, I did not anticipate how involved attorneys are in every aspect of a case.

The experience that stands out the most was working through the process of filing a motion for alternative service. I became involved when the supervising attorney and I drove to the courthouse to have the sheriff serve the defendant. We learned that the sheriff would need to deputize another sheriff to complete service, so we instead retained a private process server. After the process server made multiple unsuccessful attempts and it became clear that the defendant was actively avoiding service, I helped research the requirements for obtaining court approval for alternative service.

This was my favorite project because it highlighted something unique about working at a public interest law firm. The attorneys were responsible not only for the legal issues in the case but also for navigating every procedural hurdle necessary to move the litigation forward. Being involved from the courthouse visit through researching and helping prepare the motion gave me a much greater appreciation for the practical, problem-solving side of litigation that extends well beyond legal research. It was a level of hands-on involvement that I do not think I would have experienced in many other legal settings.

Overall, this internship reinforced how rewarding public interest work can be. I had the opportunity to draft advice letters and deeds, observe depositions and hearings, and conduct investigative research. Through this work, I also became more familiar with the different property documents involved in homeownership matters and the financial resources and assistance programs available to help seniors maintain and protect their homes. The experience strengthened both my legal research and writing skills while also giving me a realistic understanding of the day-to-day responsibilities of a public interest attorney. It has been an invaluable experience, and I am grateful for everything I have learned over the course of the summer.