



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	The Georgia Resource Center

Update 1: I just completed my first week as a legal intern at the Georgia Resource Center!

For those unfamiliar with the organization, the Georgia Resource Center provides representation to individuals sentenced to death and people serving life without parole sentences in Georgia. Its work is often the last safeguard ensuring that constitutional violations and claims of innocence receive judicial review.

My first week was spent in an intensive training program covering post-conviction procedure, life-without-parole habeas, state habeas proceedings, and mitigation interviewing. It was a challenging introduction to a highly specialized area of the law and a reminder of the tremendous responsibility carried by attorneys working in this field.

Anyone who knows me knows that advocating for incarcerated people is what first drew me to the legal profession. This internship is another step toward the kind of work I have hoped to do for years, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn from the talented staff at the GRC this summer.

Update 2: Over the past three weeks, I have been engaged in a range of research and case-support projects. During my second and third weeks, I completed a research memorandum for one of our client matters, which involved an exploratory review of the scientific reliability of certain forensic evidence. I am now piloting a qualitative study of aggravated homicide cases and developing a dataset that will serve as a resource for staff in future casework and research.

Update 3: I have started a legal research assignment on ineffective assistance of counsel to supplement a reply brief in our client's federal habeas case. I also attended my first prison visit



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to speak with another client. The visit went very well and was one of the most meaningful experiences I have had as a legal intern. Finally, I am spending this week preparing for juror interviews that will be taking place in the coming weeks.

Update 4: This week I am conducting investigative research on the jurors involved in our client's trial and preparing a report for our staff investigator to support their research.

Final Reflection: My summer internship with the Georgia Resource Center gave me the opportunity to experience post-conviction legal representation beyond the classroom. The Georgia Resource Center is a nonprofit law office that represents individuals sentenced to death in Georgia during post-conviction proceedings. I began the summer with an interest in advocating for people affected by incarceration, but the internship gave me a much clearer understanding of what effective representation requires. Through assignments involving legal research, record review, and investigation, I learned that meaningful advocacy often comes from careful, persistent work outside the courtroom.

One of the most valuable aspects of the internship was learning to conduct legal research with an active litigation objective in mind. My assignments addressed a variety of issues arising in post-conviction proceedings, including the use of specialized evidence, the obligations of trial counsel, and federal habeas cases involving actual innocence claims. These projects required me to do more than identify relevant authorities. I had to determine how courts applied legal standards to particular facts, recognize distinctions that could affect an authority's usefulness, and communicate my conclusions in a form that attorneys could readily incorporate into their work. As the summer progressed, I became more efficient at researching narrow questions while remaining attentive to how those questions fit within a larger case strategy.

My record review and investigative assignments reinforced the importance of accuracy and attention to detail. I reviewed physical case files to verify authorities cited in an amicus brief and completed a proportionality study requiring me to collect and compare information across numerous cases. I also assisted with investigative work by preparing juror profiles and researching publicly available information that could generate leads for future interviews. These projects taught me to question assumptions, independently verify information, and recognize that facts appearing settled may look different when the underlying record is examined closely.

The internship also showed me how closely factual investigation and legal analysis are connected. Post-conviction cases may involve years of proceedings, extensive records, and information discovered long after trial. Understanding a potential legal claim therefore often requires reconstructing its factual history. I became more comfortable working through



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uncertainty, adjusting my research methods when necessary, and returning to primary materials rather than relying on previous characterizations of the record.

Most importantly, my experience at the Georgia Resource Center reinforced my commitment to advocating for people affected by incarceration. I learned that effective representation rarely results from a single dramatic moment; instead, it is built through careful research, thorough investigation, accurate writing, and collaboration. I leave the summer with stronger legal and analytical skills and a greater appreciation for the responsibility attorneys assume when their work directly affects another person's life and liberty. I hope to carry that sense of responsibility, along with the habits of diligence and curiosity I developed this summer, throughout my legal career.