



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Ava Comeau
LAW SCHOOL	Georgetown University Law Center
ORGANIZATION	ACLU-DC

Update 1:

I have been at ACLU of the District of Columbia for two weeks and have been thoroughly enjoying learning about civil rights impact litigation! In this short time, I have already gotten to dive into research for an employment discrimination case and assist in a large-scale data review for discovery in an ADA and Rehabilitation Act case. I have also had the opportunity to observe several court hearings. During my first week, I watched one of ACLU-DC's attorneys argue to uphold a preliminary injunction preserving access to gender-affirming care for people incarcerated in federal prisons in the case *Kingdom v. Trump*. I also got to attend a D.C. Circuit oral argument for the case *National Trust for Historic Preservation v. National Park Service*, the lawsuit seeking to halt construction of the White House Ballroom, in which ACLU-DC filed an amicus brief. I am so inspired by ACLU-DC's attorneys, and I can't wait to keep learning from them!

Update 2:

My time at ACLU of the District of Columbia has been flying by and it's already time for my second update! For the past two weeks, I have been digging into some complicated research questions and have started drafting a memo of my findings. ACLU-DC has been busy with filings these past few weeks, so I've also been helping with cite checks, which are a less glamorous, but essential step to impact litigation! I also got to attend another of ACLU-DC's court hearings for the case *Accountability NOW USA v. Griess*. I've appreciated getting to see different models of oral advocacy from different attorney's arguments and I feel like I'm developing a better understanding of what kind of advocate I want to be.

Update 3:



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Hello everyone, I finished my last memo and have dived headfirst into another; I'm currently researching 8th amendment issues. This summer, I've enjoyed getting exposed to new areas of civil rights law, as my prior civil rights experience was exclusively in employment discrimination. I also feel as though I'm becoming faster and more adaptable in my research into new legal issues, which will surely come in handy in clinic next semester and in practice. In other news, ACLU of the District of Columbia had a big victory this past week, winning summary judgment in favor of our clients' free speech rights in Accountability NOW v. Griess. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to support ACLU-DC's important work this summer.

Update 4:

This summer has flown by, and I'm almost finished with my internship at ACLU of the District of Columbia. These past two weeks were especially exciting as I got to work on some different tasks than my usual research and writing. Yesterday, I conducted an intake interview with a potential client. Given my background in direct service work, I was missing client interaction a bit this summer, so this was an exciting change of pace! I've also been working on some legislative history research, which has been a fun challenge. It truly feels like looking for a needle in a haystack, which makes it even more satisfying when you find something useful! This summer has pushed me to become a much stronger legal researcher and writer, as I find myself confronted with new areas of law every week. I feel so much more capable than I did at the start of my internship.

Final Reflection:

Time for my final update of the summer! I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to experience the ins and outs of civil rights impact litigation from the attorneys at ACLU-DC.

I have grown immensely as a legal thinker this summer. I had the opportunity to conduct meaningful research in familiar and new areas of law including employment discrimination, Eighth Amendment issues, and more. At the beginning of the summer, I sometimes felt overwhelmed by a new question, but I quickly adapted and felt that I have become a faster, more competent, legal researcher. My proudest accomplishment was writing a complex memo on a pressing issue for ACLU-DC and presenting my research to the legal team at the end of the summer. Explaining my research and responding to questions made me realize how much I had learned over the summer about an area of law that was unfamiliar to me. I am sure this newfound adaptability will serve me both in clinic this coming semester and after graduation.

In addition to research, I contributed to the day-to-day workings of the legal team. I had the opportunity to conduct an intake interview in a pending case, reinforcing client-facing skills that I built last summer. I also assisted with cite checking.



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I had the opportunity to observe several of ACLU-DC's hearings and witness the legal team in action. Seeing different models of oral advocacy has helped me better understand what kind of advocate I want to be. While litigation has always been an area of interest for me, I have sometimes doubted myself because I am not naturally aggressive. Witnessing the attorneys' competent, level-headed advocacy helped demonstrate to me a model of oral advocacy that feels true to who I am as a lawyer and a person. I got to witness several victories by ACLU-DC this summer, including a preliminary injunction to allow transgender people incarcerated in BOP facilities continued access to gender affirming care and an important First Amendment victory in *Accountability NOW v. Griess*.

I had a wonderful experience with ACLU-DC this summer and I am incredibly grateful for all that I learned.