



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Nora Ryan
LAW SCHOOL	Georgetown Law Center
ORGANIZATION	Mobilization for Justice

This summer I worked as a Legal Intern at Mobilization for Justice (MFJ) within the Housing Unit. MFJ is a legal service provider in New York City. As an intern I supported attorneys and advocates who provide eviction defense and housing advocacy services to low-income New Yorkers.

Throughout the summer, I completed intakes for tenants facing eviction and under supervision met with clients to provide legal advice regarding their housing issues. I also assisted Staff Attorneys' litigation efforts by drafting a petition, order to show cause, answer, reply and motion to dismiss for ongoing client litigation. This experience gave me insight into trial practice and preparation. I was responsible for drafting subpoenas, completing legal research memos, and serving as a liaison between MFJ's clients and their community partners to ensure clients received benefits, like rental assistance, to which they are entitled. This work helped me see first-hand how legal advocacy can directly affect a person's ability to remain safely housed.

During my internship I worked with a tenant with physical disabilities. A series of housing code violations in her apartment prevented her from accessing parts of her unit with her walker, cooking in her kitchen, and from using her bathroom. Many times, clients proceed *pro se* in cases requiring landlords to make necessary repairs due to funding gaps that make it challenging to find representation for non-eviction related matters. Due to her disability, the client was unable to go in person to the courthouse and file the case on her own.

I wrote the Petition, and supported by my supervisor, filed the case on the client's behalf, requiring the landlord make repairs without the client having to appear in court given her limitations. With legal representation, the client will be able to stay in her home and age with



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dignity. The experience highlighted for me the challenges that people confront when there is insufficient legal representation. With additional resources and increased funding for representation, more tenants will be able to advance their rights to safe housing.

MFJ operates multiple community legal clinics across New York City. I accompanied MFJ staff to these clinics where people in the neighborhood can attend to receive legal advice related to their housing issue. The types of issues tenants faced ranged from landlords overcharging rent, to eviction notices. At the clinic, MFJ staff complete an intake with the tenant, gather relevant information, and issue brief advice or refer the individual to an attorney for full representation. I learned from this experience that there is very limited capacity for representation of cases unrelated to eviction defense.

The attorneys I worked with over the summer were tremendous advocates for their clients. The experience of shadowing attorneys in Housing Court, participating in the litigation process and advising clients with my supervisor made clear to me the power of access to representation for people who are threatened with eviction. Thank you for the support of Equal Justice America in making this summer possible.