



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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ORGANIZATION	Equip for Equality

Update 1: I'm excited to share that I have been selected as a Summer 2026 Equal Justice America and to provide my first update from my work at Equip for Equality.

During this past week that I have started at EFE, I have had the opportunity to conduct intake calls and provide legal assistance to students with disabilities and their families. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing this meaningful work throughout the summer.

Update 2: Over the past few weeks, I've continued strengthening my legal writing skills by drafting a variety of assignments while gaining a deeper understanding of education law. I also had the opportunity to attend a presentation on the different types of psychological evaluations used in special education and how they help inform the development of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). In addition, I've been working on a project explaining recently enacted school discipline legislation, helping make these legal updates more accessible to families and advocates.

I'm grateful to the attorneys and staff at Equip for Equality for their mentorship and to Equal Justice America for making this fellowship possible.

Update 3: As I continue to strengthen my legal research, writing, and advocacy skills while supporting clients navigate the education system, it has been incredibly rewarding to help them access educational supports and services they are entitled to.

Lately, I have been exploring parents' and students' rights and legal remedies available to implement Early Intervention services. This work has deepened my understanding of the



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intersection of disability rights and education law, while highlighting the importance of children receiving timely and appropriate services during critical stages of development.

Update 4: As my summer with Equal Justice America continues, I'm grateful for the opportunity to keep supporting clients through both self-advocacy and direct representation.

In addition to client work, I've been involved in several research projects. One has focused on informing families about agency changes within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Early Intervention system to help ensure they have access to accurate, up-to-date information. Another has examined discriminatory data patterns across school districts, contributing to efforts to better understand and address inequities in education.

Final Reflection: As my summer wraps up at Equip for Equality, I wanted to reflect on all of the work I completed throughout these past couple of months.

First and foremost, I offered meaningful assistance to clients through EFE's helpline. While this did not always result in representation, we equipped families with the advice and tools they were able to use for their children's success in school.

I was also involved in multiple projects such as drafting mediation requests, due process complaints, creating fact sheets and social media posts informing families of their rights, and drafting FOIA requests and analyzing ISBE data on possible discrimination patterns. My colleagues were very helpful, and my mentors offered amazing guidance. I not only learned more about the education law field, but I grew significantly as a professional that I will carry forward in my legal career.