



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Tatiana Roman
LAW SCHOOL	Loyola University Chicago School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Center for Disability and Elder Law

Update 1: Two weeks ago, I started my internship at the Center for Disability & Elder Law! So far, I have gone to CDEL's Community Clinic at the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation and to a community workshop near Douglass Park to learn from attorneys executing Power of Attorneys for healthcare and finances, Transfer on Death Instruments, and other estate planning instruments. I have also conducted prescreens and intakes on the phone and in-person, conducted title searches for CDEL's Housing Preservation Program, and assisted at the Guardianship Help Desk at the Daley Center.

I look forward to taking more appointments at CDEL's community clinics across Cook County this summer and expanding my knowledge of disability and elder law alongside supervising attorneys at CDEL. Stay tuned for more updates about my 2L summer internship as an Equal Justice America fellow!

Update 2: 1 month ago, I started my internship at the Center for Disability & Elder Law! This week, I took 4 walk-in appointments at the Guardianship Help Desk, a service at the Daley Center for people without attorneys, where I helped walk-ins fill out paperwork needed to file for Adult Guardianship. In addition, I have had the opportunity to design pamphlets and PowerPoint presentations of legal information on Advanced Directives and got started on translating new informational graphics into Spanish! As a second-generation Latina/e, and intermediate-towards-advanced Spanish-speaker, I am grateful that I get to improve my Spanish generally and learn legal Spanish, and of course, hope for my work to impact disabled and older Latinx/e adults at CDEL and beyond.



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Update 3: This week, I got to use my 711-License in a Guardianship hearing through my work at the Center for Disability and Elder Law and successfully got 2 parents declared as co-guardians of their son, who has intellectual disabilities and who depends on his parents to make all of his decisions. Next week, I get to use my 711 in 2 more guardianship hearings. I am very grateful to receive funding from Equal Justice America #EJAFellowUpdate so that I can continue to use my 711 License and get practical skills and experience necessary to advance rights of marginalized communities! This opportunity this summer has led me to receive a scholarship of \$10,000 from the Kott Gerontology Scholars Program, so that I can continue volunteering at CDEL as a 3L. Programs like EJA and KGSP are what keep me afloat during law school and allow me to focus on work I really want to do! Stay tuned for what comes next.

Update 4: This summer, I learned so many valuable skills with my 711-License in court, which means I had the opportunity to represent clients in court under the supervision of a licensed attorney. I traveled all across Cook County on my bike and the CTA to meet clients where they are, which got me more familiar with communities CDEL serves. Fortunately, I get to continue at CDEL and will get more practical skills at this organization for my 3L year. Thanks to CDEL for such an invaluable experience this summer and to Equal Justice America for funding my summer experience.

Final Reflection: Hello again! After a few weeks of reflection, I can say I learned a lot about what it takes to be a public interest lawyer serving marginalized communities. My summer experience has encouraged me to continue in the public interest law field upon graduating law school and passing the bar.

This summer, I was at the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) where I got to participate in many community clinics and observe volunteers and attorneys executing powers of attorney for healthcare and finances, living will declarations, and transfer-on-death instruments. After getting to see attorneys in practice, I was able to draft powers of attorney and living will declarations with clients at workshops myself; of course, under the supervision of an attorney. CDEL's attorneys prepared me well so that I felt comfortable answering client questions or pointing out when I needed to ask a supervisor.

I was also trained to take shifts at the Pro Se Adult Guardianship Help Desk at the Daley Center helping walk-ins fill out paperwork needed to file for Adult Guardianship. This is something I felt



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confident in doing myself and had the opportunity to do so because of my 711 License. In addition, I got to put my name on the record a few times in Adult Guardianship hearings in court at the Daley Center.

Before the end of my summer internship, I started working on a 50-state survey to determine what states call Living Wills. In addition, I drafted a Power of Attorney referral letter for candidates who are declined for CDEL's services, in which I described steps for someone to execute their powers of attorney for health care and property on their own on Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO). I also helped attorneys on a project to make our referral letters and other informational letters more readable to the general public by editing the language to accommodate a person at a sixth grade reading level.

Fortunately, I am continuing at CDEL this academic year to learn more about different parts of disability and elder law, especially elder law as a Kott Gerontology Scholar, an AgeOptions program meant to encourage Illinois graduate students to serve older adults. Thank you to donors of Equal Justice America for providing funding, which has allowed me to learn so much this summer! I learned so much about myself and who I want to be as a public interest attorney and even got access to more opportunities this summer at CDEL.