



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Kaela Braxton
LAW SCHOOL	NYU School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Youth Represent

Update 1: I'm so excited to be at Youth Represent this summer working alongside amazing attorneys and paralegals who are leading the cause for juvenile justice! I will be assisting attorneys in mitigation work, name changes for young people, bail applications, and more!

I am honored to be recognized as an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer. EJA is an organization supporting law students who have a passion for civil legal aid. They are supporting me this summer and as a return, I ask that you support their cause by donating.

Update 2: It's almost my half-way point at Youth Represent this summer and I've had such an amazing time during my internship. Currently working on memos for my supervising attorney and will be assisting with Know Your Rights workshops in the upcoming weeks. I've loved being able to participate in more mitigation work and assist young people in their court cases.

Update 3: I have had a great time at Youth Represent this summer and am proud of the work I have been able to accomplish in such a short time. This week, I attended a sentencing hearing for one of my clients. While the outcome was not what we wanted, we showed up for our client, which is important to boosting morale and showing them that we are fully advocating for better outcomes while they are incarcerated. I was also able to help assist with a Know Your Rights workshop, where we taught youth in the Harlem community the rights they should know and assert whenever they experience encounters with law enforcement. Being able to work with youth in the community is very fulfilling and is a great reminder of our purpose of giving youth the tools to advocate for themselves.

Update 4: As my summer comes to an end at Youth Represent, I'd like to recount the ways I've been able to assist my amazing supervising attorney on very important cases. I have been



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working on legal research surrounding Youthful Offender status to help advocate for young clients to get a second chance at life. I've had the pleasure of assisting with writing legal memos and letters to the court for advocacy matters. Additionally, I have reached out to detention facilities for letters of support, school records, and more to further advocacy efforts to ensure that our clients are receiving the best possible outcomes in court. I am proud of the work YR is accomplishing with young people in the community and am excited to tie up loose ends on projects I am currently working on.

Final Reflection: About two weeks ago, I completed my internship at Youth Represent as 2026 Summer Legal Intern. I had such an amazing time at their office this summer and received legal training from the most incredible people championing for equity, restorative justice, and genuine heartfelt client-focused work in the juvenile defense field. At Youth Represent, the legal team is small but mighty and they are supported by such an amazing team of social workers, policy leaders, paralegals, and most notably, youth leaders who show up every day eager to support young people involved in the New York legal system.

This summer, I engaged in legal research surrounding Youthful Offender status, substance use treatment, and more. I conducted video calls with clients, attended court to support our clients, corresponded with attorneys, and worked on advocacy letters and memos. Youth Represent was so intentional about making sure the legal interns received a comprehensive overview of the New York legal system by holding trainings on retroactive Youthful Offender status, amicus briefs, employment and licensing, name changes, juvenile justice policy, and voluntary surrender.

I am grateful for my time at Youth Represent and have left with a renewed sense of inspiration as I enter my second year at NYU Law. I will be participating in the Juvenile Defender Clinic at NYU Law this semester and will take the mitigation, legal research, and writing skills I built at Youth Represent to my clinic as I represent young people in New York. What struck me the most about Youth Represent is their dedication to building authentic, longstanding relationships with the young people that they assist and represent. That is something that is very important to me, and I deeply appreciate how they center this in everything they do.

I want to thank Equal Justice America for accepting me as a fellow this summer. EJA is an organization supporting law students who have a passion for civil legal aid. They have supported me this summer and as a return, I ask that you support their cause by donating to their fundraiser, so that they can continue helping students like me! They are helping to build the next generation of public interest lawyers, and their mission has had a lasting impact on me and several other law students who have a passion for helping people.