



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	ACLU Racial Justice Program

Update 1: Summer is here and I am very excited to share that I am a few weeks into my internship at the American Civil Liberties Union's Racial Justice Program (RJP). I am also pleased to announce that I was selected to receive an Equal Justice America Fellowship for my work this summer!

This has already been a summer to remember. In my first few weeks, I have already been integrated into case teams fighting for health equity and opposing contemporary Anti-DEI efforts in the courts. I have also benefited from extensive training through a series focused on honing key lawyering skills such as public interest litigation strategy, legal research and writing, and coordination with organizing campaigns. All the while, I've been pleased to connect with like-minded law students who share my desire to use the law as a tool for social change.

Learning from some of the nation's most talented and passionate attorneys provides me with hope and inspiration as I prepare for a career litigating for Black and Brown communities throughout our nation. I am truly looking forward to continuing to contribute to the ACLU's work in eradicating racial injustice in the U.S.

I am grateful to the ACLU and Equal Justice America for the opportunity to contribute to such important work. If you are interested in supporting other aspiring civil rights attorneys performing similar work, you can donate.

Update 2: I am now halfway through my internship at the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, and each day has been a valuable opportunity to learn and develop my skills. My projects have expanded my knowledge of administrative law while pushing me to assess competing case law across the circuits. Through both projects, I have been engaged in legal research as I analyze a



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fair amount of case law. With each assignment, I have become a more efficient legal researcher and a more concise writer.

I've also enjoyed having regular 1:1 chats with the RJP attorneys, who make a concerted effort to ensure that my co-interns and I feel like we are a true part of the team. Sitting in on RJP's weekly team meetings and hearing how they approach current issues in racial justice has been enlightening. I've also enjoyed spending time around the office and connecting with attorneys from various legal departments across the ACLU, all of whom have given me exceptional advice on approaching a career in civil rights and racial justice.

Update 3: It's been quite a busy summer. Last week, the RJP team was kind enough to let me attend a meet & confer – a discovery event I have previously docketed and helped attorneys prepare for as a paralegal, but I had never attended one before now. Sitting in and listening to the discussions at hand felt very full circle and illuminated how civil rights lawyers approach the discovery process and managing relationships with opposing counsel.

Additionally, I've been doing preliminary research into issues pertaining to race-based inequities in housing, an issue I have long been curious about but have had less opportunity to explore. My research in housing has increased my understanding of and familiarity with the Fair Housing Act of 1968, a statute intended to prohibit housing discrimination, eliminate segregated living patterns, and ensure equal housing access for all people. Seeing the work that RJP and other ACLU projects do to uphold the statute's aims is awe-inspiring!

Update 4: Wow time has flown! I am so proud of the sum of the work I have been able to complete this summer. To date, I have completed 4 memos, all on hard hitting and pertinent modern day issues of racial justice. Whether focused on health equity, school desegregation, housing access, or resisting anti-DEI efforts by the current administration, all of the work I did this summer moved the needle towards justice and equity for all marginalized people further along.

My most notable experience this summer was attending a preliminary injunction hearing on a school admissions policy case in NYC. Watching us win the hearing was a firm reminder that when we fight, we win. I cannot express my gratitude to the entire RJP team enough for assuring me that a career fighting is worth it and I am hopeful that I'll find my way to battle for social change soon.

Final Reflection: Looking back on my experience at the ACLU Racial Justice Program this summer, the word that comes to the front of my mind is "proud." I feel proud of the work I did, the growth I experienced, the connections I made, and the time and commitment I dedicated to



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every project. While we did not truly work with direct clients, I learned the stories of the people we were fighting for: the stories of patients who rely on diverse doctors for equitable treatment in healthcare settings, students seeking to attend diverse institutions rather than schools that have never been unsegregated, and community organizations working to uphold their commitment to serving communities of color under the Trump administration. As I read these stories and did work that contributed to their forward momentum, I was continuously reminded of what called me to this summer, what called me to this profession, and what called me to a career in law and, hopefully, in civil rights and impact litigation in the first place. Real people are waiting for and are impacted by these briefs and by these decisions. It is not lost on me how enormous a privilege it is to work on issues that can ripple across communities and make a sustained impact on one's ability to be affirmed in all settings, and to see themselves live and thrive in the nation.

I thank RJP not only for grounding me in these stories but also for allowing me to grow while doing work related to them. My supervisor gave me such thorough and continuous feedback. She poured into me, leaving extensive comments and feedback on my writing, in addition to taking the time in our 1:1s to further discuss any revisions. As lawyers, our writing is a major part of our trade, and many organizations do not have sufficient time or resources to provide this sort of guidance. I remain endlessly thankful to have spent the summer with a team that prioritized this type of feedback. Overall, I am confident that I have left the summer as a better writer and a stronger legal thinker.

Lastly, this summer connected me with other dedicated public interest law school students who I am confident I will know for the rest of my career. My co-interns, for example, poured into me, and we navigated topics we were confused about together. Showing up and improving with them was one of the best parts of my summer. I remain so thankful to EJA for making this summer possible for me, the work you all do does not go unappreciated or unnoticed!