



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

NAME	Thalia Charles
LAW SCHOOL	NYU School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Family Justice Law Center

Update 1: Two weeks ago, I began my 2L summer legal internship at Family Justice Law Center, a non-profit that pursues impact litigation and strategic appeals to address the injustices of the family policing system here in New York City. On top of receiving public interest funding from my law school, I'm also grateful to receive additional funding from Equal Justice America, an organization that supports law students who are interested in civil legal aid and civil rights work. Working at FJLC has been a goal of mine since before entering law school, and I will be posting updates throughout the summer to share about the work I'm doing at FJLC as a #EJAFellow.

It is an exciting time to work at FJLC, as FJLC filed a historic civil rights lawsuit, *Archer v. City of New York*, a few days before my internship began. I look forward to hopefully assisting with this litigation this summer. Although I'm early on in my internship, I am already progressing towards my goals of developing stronger legal writing and research skills and working on interesting types of legal writing. I've also gotten to connect with and learn from my fellow interns! The attorneys at FJLC are so talented, erudite, and kind, and I look forward to learning more from them as the summer progresses.

I am grateful to FJLC and Equal Justice America for the opportunity to assist with such crucial civil rights work!

Update 2: I am about halfway through my internship at FJLC, and I am amazed at how fast the summer has flown by! I've gotten to observe status conferences in federal district courts, conduct potential client intakes, and deepen my legal research skills. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to further research some laws that I learned about during my clinic, the Family Defense Clinic, during my 2L year. My internship has inspired me to take Civil Rights Law in the fall! The attorneys at FJLC are so kind and provide great feedback on my writing, and I am



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grateful to learn from them. They model being civil rights litigators in the public interest so well. I look forward to my next update!

Update 3: As I end my sixth week as a Legal Intern at Family Justice Law Center, I am very grateful for the opportunities I have gotten to really work on the iterative process of writing. I had a great meeting with one of the Litigation Counsels where she provided me with helpful feedback on my legal writing skills. I am eager to use these skills in writing an Argument section for an administrative request to help develop future litigation. In the upcoming weeks, I look forward to shadowing family defense attorneys in Bronx County Family Court. Watching their defense of their clients exposes me to zealous civil legal advocacy and demonstrates the necessity of the civil rights work that FJLC does to correct systemic injustices in the family policing system.

Update 4: I cannot believe that I am nearing the end of my internship at FJLC! Most recently, I've gotten to shadow family defense attorneys in the Bronx who litigate on behalf of low-income families of color. During my court observations, I saw issues that FJLC's litigation is striving to correct. I have most recently been working on a digest of a potential client's records and researching potential causes of action. That assignment has really underscored the necessity of civil legal aid and civil rights litigators working together to identify systemic injustices and work with and be led by the impacted communities to remedy these injustices. I am looking forward, but yet am sad, about concluding my internship and wrapping up these important assignments.

Final Reflection:

On August 7, I wrapped up my EJA-funded summer internship at the Family Justice Law Center (FJLC). During my final week, I focused primarily on heavily revising a legal memo that will support an innovative lawsuit that FJLC may file. I also worked on a legal memo analyzing a potential client's civil rights claims. Both assignments taught me the importance of iterative work and showed me how careful legal research and writing can contribute to developing new approaches to civil rights litigation.

Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to work on a wide range of legal research and writing projects related to the rights of families involved with the family policing system. The experience allowed me to build on my prior work in family defense while learning more about civil rights litigation as another tool for challenging harmful government practices. I especially appreciated seeing how FJLC's attorneys think creatively about potential claims, develop litigation strategies, and use individual cases to address broader systemic problems. Their approach pushed me to think beyond identifying what the law currently says and toward considering how lawyers can develop and strengthen the law.



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I am incredibly grateful to FJLC and Equal Justice America for supporting my development as a legal writer, researcher, and future public interest attorney. I am also grateful for the thoughtful supervision and guidance that FJLC's attorneys provided throughout the summer. Their feedback challenged me to become a more precise legal writer.

I left FJLC not only with stronger research and writing skills, but also with a Student Note idea inspired by an assignment I completed and a case I observed in Bronx County Family Court. I also gained a deeper appreciation for civil rights litigation. This summer expanded my understanding of the different ways lawyers can advocate alongside families and reinforced my commitment to pursuing family defense and systemic advocacy after law school, even though I will likely do direct services!