



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	AIDS Law Project

Update 1: I'm thrilled to share that I've been selected as an Equal Justice America Fellow! 🎉 🎉

Equal Justice America is dedicated to expanding access to civil legal aid for those who need it most. This fellowship is a meaningful step in my personal journey toward that mission.

As part of the fellowship, I will be posting updates on my internship experience. My first couple of weeks at the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania have been incredibly educational. I have already learned so much from the amazing professionals who help so many with housing, public benefits, discrimination, and many other issues. I have deepened my understanding of how important empathy and listening are in law, especially when clients face significant obstacles. Today, I completed my first client intake call! I have a lot to improve, but it was very exciting to be part of a process that can help someone access the public benefits they need.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support. It truly means the world. 🙏

Update 2: A few weeks into my Equal Justice America Fellowship, so it's time for my second update. 🏠

These past weeks, I've dug into the real challenges clients face: navigating unsafe living conditions, fighting to access or keep the public benefits they depend on, and understanding the significant changes coming to Medicaid that stand to affect so many of the people we serve. What's been most meaningful is moving from learning to doing. I've lost track of the amount of intakes I have taken. I've also begun working on cases to find concrete legal remedies for clients. There's a real difference between understanding a problem in the abstract and sitting with



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someone, listening closely to their situation, and helping them find a path forward. We have clients in fear of losing their home. We have clients who face barrier after barrier just to get to the doctor. We have aging clients who are just trying to make their remaining time on Earth as comfortable and safe as they can. Each case has deepened my understanding of the law while reinforcing how much empathy and careful listening matter in this work, especially when clients are facing obstacles that feel overwhelming to them.

I'm grateful to the incredible professionals at the AIDS Law Project who continue to teach and guide me every day, and to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. This experience has affirmed how much public interest law matters, and how much work remains to ensure everyone can access the justice they deserve.

Update 3: Excited to share my 3rd Equal Justice America Fellow update!

The past few weeks at the Law Project have pushed me further into the day-to-day realities of civil legal aid, and I've grown a lot because of it. A couple highlights:

I drafted my first demand letter, learning firsthand how much careful, persuasive writing can matter to a client's outcome before a case ever nears a courtroom. It was a great exercise in translating a client's story into something clear, factual, and compelling.

I also had the chance to observe municipal landlord/tenant court in session. Seeing housing law play out in real time, watching how quickly cases move and how much is at stake for tenants navigating that process with or without representation, made the urgency of this work feel even more real to me. It was also a much different environment that I have experienced in other courts, so it was very enlightening.

Every week deepens my appreciation for the attorneys and staff who do this workday in and day out, and for the trust clients place in us during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I'm continually grateful for the opportunity to learn from them.

Update 4: As my time as an intern for the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania comes to a close, I wanted to share one final Equal Justice America Fellow update.

In these final weeks, I've had the privilege of seeing a couple of cases through from start to finish, a full-circle experience that's taught me more than I expected. I've continued helping two clients work through their medical bills, trying to free them from the stress of medical debt looming over their lives as they try to get healthier. I'm also proud to share that I helped a client



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get sensitive personal information removed from a malicious website, a meaningful win for their safety, privacy, and peace of mind.

Although I have been able to help some individuals, there have been so many cases that I will not be able to see them through to the end. This internship has really taught me how many people need legal help, and how much relief you can provide if you are able to help them.

Thank you all for following this journey with me.

Final Reflection: I truly had a very special experience at the AIDS Law Project this summer. I spoke with so many clients facing a very wide range of issues. I have greatly improved my de-escalation skills and issue-spotting ability. De-escalation was often needed during intake because some individuals were understandably very upset about their current issues, or some individuals suffered from mental health issues. The ability to spot issues was probably the most difficult aspect of the job. Many times, clients had multiple issues at once or issues that were not legal issues but were very important to them. It took a lot of trial and error to write intake narratives for our attorneys that answered all the questions they would have after reading them.

Some days were more emotionally difficult than others. It is very difficult to hear someone who is incredibly sick or scared. Sometimes we just could not help them and could only refer them to attorneys who could. That also took some getting used to. But it was incredibly rewarding to help someone in great need. I was privileged to have some very kind and appreciative clients who shared their gratitude for my work. I received my first career thank-you card that I will cherish for the rest of my career.

My internship at AIDS Law Project was very well-rounded. Almost every day, I have face-to-face or over-the-phone client interaction. I observed the Philadelphia landlord-tenant court. I worked on housing, public benefits, estate documents, and some tort cases. After intake hours, I supported attorneys by drafting memoranda summarizing the legal research I conducted for them. I made calls to medical providers to try to get debt relief. I successfully got an intimate video of a client removed from a malicious website. I was able to experience a lot, and many of the staff were willing to let me jump into their work. I am incredibly grateful for this internship and proud of the work I did there.