



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	Temple Law
ORGANIZATION	New York Legal Assistance Group

This summer I had the pleasure of working at New York Legal Assistance Group in their Tenants' Rights Unit. Eviction defense is precisely the kind of work that I have set my mind on while in law school, so I felt extremely grateful for the opportunity to engage with this work this past summer. Eviction defense can be difficult and emotionally taxing but working with the attorneys at NYLAG helped me develop skills and strategies to become a compassionate and effective advocate.

Much of my time was spent in Manhattan Housing Court, which provided me with valuable insight as to the dynamics of Right to Counsel litigation. I was particularly struck by the sheer quantity of people that were funneled through housing court, quite hastily, every single day. The experience can be dehumanizing, and I've heard it described as such by clients, with judges focused on moving through their docket with efficiency, thereby leaving individuals with more questions than answers after their proceedings. I also saw how much of a difference the presence of counsel can make to those navigating housing court, and just how much the system could benefit from expanding Right to Counsel resources so that no low-income tenant has to go it alone during these proceedings.

I really appreciated in particular the opportunities that I got to interact with clients directly. The population that NYLAG's Tenants Rights Unit serves often experiences a compounding of issues that leads individuals to fall behind on rent. Hearing clients' stories about how they ended up in housing court was a powerful reminder of how important advocacy and mobilization outside of the legal context is. These people are, after all, our neighbors, and cities hurt when neighbors are displaced.

Finally, I want to extend my most sincere gratitude to Equal Justice America for providing this summer fellowship. The funding that EJA provided allowed me to pursue this summer role in New York City, and I feel fortunate to be a member of a network of so many dedicated advocates.