



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Hi everyone! I can't believe it has already been three weeks since I started my fellowship with the ACLU of Pennsylvania. This initial stretch has been an incredible whirlwind, and I'm already deeply immersed in the vital civil rights work happening here every day. Right from the jump, I've had the opportunity to dive into pressing legal issues that align exactly with my passion for public interest law. A huge highlight so far was getting to attend oral arguments in federal court—seeing high-stakes litigation play out in real time was an invaluable masterclass in advocacy. Back in the office, my days are a mix of deep-dive research into complex constitutional questions and listening in on fascinating strategy calls. I've also been focusing on getting to know the brilliant folks working across different departments here. Learning about their diverse pathways to civil rights work has been incredibly inspiring and has already expanded my perspective on how to approach systemic advocacy. These first few weeks have been all about settling in, absorbing as much knowledge as possible, and finding my rhythm. I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity to grow both personally and professionally, and I can't wait to see what challenges and learning experiences the rest of the summer will bring!

Update 2: As I wrap up my fifth week with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, the momentum has only picked up. If my first few weeks were about settling in and absorbing how the office functions, this past month has been all about diving headfirst into the mechanics of active, high-stakes civil rights litigation. I've had the chance to pull back the curtain on federal appellate work in a really hands-on way. Recently, I got to attend moot court sessions to help attorneys prepare for oral arguments in federal court. Watching the legal team pressure-test their arguments and refine their strategies in real time was an incredible learning experience. On the drafting side, I've been trusted with substantial, substantive work that cuts right to the heart of the issues I am most passionate about. I recently wrapped up a legal memo for an active piece of litigation, and I'm



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

already deep into drafting a second one. I also got a taste of the meticulous preparation that goes into launching a case by helping compile and organize exhibits for an upcoming complaint. Between drafting, organizing evidence, and sitting in on fascinating strategy calls, I am learning so much about what it actually takes to build a case from the ground up. This internship continues to be an incredible masterclass in public interest advocacy, and I'm so excited to carry this energy into the rest of the summer!

Update 3: The last three weeks have brought some of the most rewarding moments of my fellowship so far. I got to attend the oral arguments in federal court that I had previously helped with during moot court sessions. Seeing the arguments we dissected in the office presented before a panel of judges was really interesting, and it vividly illustrated how collaborative, behind-the-scenes preparation shapes a case. On the research front, I have been digging into constitutional analyses that sit right at the intersection of First Amendment protections and criminal justice reform. Getting to work on complex legal questions that directly impact systemic accountability has been both challenging and profoundly meaningful, allowing me to apply everything I've learned in law school to real-world, active litigation. In addition to research and court appearances, I've continued to participate in strategy calls with the legal team, gaining insight into how public interest attorneys navigate the tactical decisions that drive a case forward. With only a few weeks left in the summer, I'm incredibly grateful for the trust the team has placed in me and excited to push through this final stretch!

Update 4: As my summer fellowship comes to a close, these past two weeks have been packed with high-impact work and valuable reflection. A major highlight was diving deep into First Amendment research involving ICE, which culminated in presenting my findings during our weekly case review. Walking the team through the legal analysis and seeing how those arguments fit into our broader strategy was an incredibly rewarding experience. In addition to wrapping up a final set of research memos, I've taken time to connect one-on-one with various attorneys across the office. Hearing their unique career paths, tactical perspectives, and approaches to public interest law has given me invaluable context for my own path ahead. It's hard to believe the summer is almost over, but I'm eager to finish strong and carry these experiences into my next chapter!

Final Reflection: As my summer fellowship with the ACLU of Pennsylvania comes to a close, I am reflecting on what has been a truly transformative milestone in my legal education. What began in June as an exciting introduction to affiliate-level civil rights work quickly evolved into an immersive, hands-on role contributing to high-stakes litigation across the Commonwealth. Looking back over the past ten weeks, this experience provided not only a masterclass in constitutional advocacy, but also a clarifying vision for the kind of public interest attorney I strive to be.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Throughout the summer, I had the privilege of engaging with every stage of the litigation lifecycle. Early on, I was entrusted with substantive legal drafting and factual investigation, analyzing complex questions at the intersection of First Amendment protections, surveillance, and criminal legal reform. I gained invaluable experience building cases from the ground up—conducting pre-litigation investigations into warrantless ICE arrests, and compiling critical evidence and exhibits for an upcoming federal complaint. Expanding beyond federal court dockets, I engaged directly with state-level administrative and structural reform by drafting an Office of Open Records appeal to the Commonwealth Court and contributing to a Pennsylvania Supreme Court rule comment regarding bench warrant detention limits.

One of the most impactful aspects of my fellowship was participating in federal appellate advocacy. Having helped moot our attorneys in the office—dissecting vulnerabilities, pressure-testing arguments, and refining rhetorical strategies—watching those exact arguments presented before a panel of federal judges was deeply rewarding. It vividly demonstrated that effective courtroom advocacy is the product of meticulous, collective, behind-the-scenes preparation and strategic rigor.

On a personal and professional level, this fellowship deepened my confidence as an advocate and refined my approach to systemic justice. Engaging in weekly strategy calls and collaborating with attorneys across diverse practice areas showed me how impact litigation must remain responsive to community needs and intertwined with broader movements for civil rights. I learned how to balance the demands of precise doctrinal analysis with client-centered, humanizing narratives under high stakes.

I am profoundly grateful to the ACLU-PA legal team for their generous mentorship, trust, and dedication to training the next generation of advocates. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Equal Justice America, Penn Carey Law, and the Toll Public Interest Center for making this fellowship possible through their continued support. I head into my final year of law school energized, grounded in practical litigation experience, and more committed than ever to advancing systemic accountability and civil liberties.