



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Hi everyone! I'm excited to share that I've started my Equal Justice America fellowship this summer. I will be working with the Legal Aid Justice Center to support its Housing and Consumer Justice Program. Over the course of ten weeks, I will contribute to the fight for justice by advocating for low-income clients facing poor housing conditions and eviction threats. I'm so grateful to Equal Justice America for making this opportunity possible through this summer fellowship, as most legal internships are unpaid. If you believe everyone has the right to critical legal services, including those who can't afford them, I hope you'll consider donating to support me and this important work.

Update 2: Happy summer! I want to share an update post for Equal Justice America (EJA), which funds grants for civil legal aid interns doing vital yet often unfunded work! I am about a month into my internship at the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC). My time in the Housing and Consumer Justice Program has been incredible so far. I have been researching, drafting legal documents, and preparing to represent clients in court using my Third-Year Practice Certificate. I even got to help draft a comment that will soon be under review by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Civil legal aid is deeply rewarding, and I am excited to see these projects through.

Update 3: Yesterday, I represented my first client in court! Under the supervision of Cassie Powell, Director of UR's Access to Justice Clinic, I advocated for a family in their Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) case. As an aspiring immigration lawyer, I hold this moment near and dear to my heart. I am able to take on this kind of public-interest work thanks to Equal Justice America, which provides grants for often-unpaid legal aid internships. Their support means I can say yes to opportunities like this without worrying about the financial trade-off.



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Update 4: With my internship at LAJC wrapping up soon, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this experience. Over the past ten weeks, I've conducted legal research and drafted documents including Bills of Particulars and Motions to Compel. I've also prepared for trial, including an upcoming Unlawful Exclusion claim I'll help argue. Above all, however, this internship taught me the value of building genuine relationships with the Petersburg community. From tabling at farmers markets to hosting our monthly Housing Conditions Clinic at the local library, I've learned that effective legal aid advocacy means meeting residents where they are.

Final Reflection: My summer at the Legal Aid Justice Center taught me lessons that I will carry with me long into my professional career. As an intern in the Housing and Consumer Justice Program, I had the opportunity to conduct research, draft legal writing, and interact with the court. Above all, however, I cultivated a client-centered approach to my advocacy.

I had the pleasure of serving clients in several ways. For example, I helped facilitate our monthly Housing Conditions Clinic, where we met with community members at the local library and taught them how to give their landlords appropriate notice about their living conditions. This clinic allowed us to advocate for Petersburg community members whom we did not have the capacity to represent fully, and it demonstrated how no good deed is too small. Additionally, I spent Saturday mornings tabling at the Petersburg Farmers Market, providing community members with not only housing support, but also resources to all of our other programs. This type of community engagement greatly expanded our presence in the area, and I found myself looking forward to seeing new and old faces every weekend.

Perhaps the greatest challenge I encountered involved a particular client base. Many of our clients hailed from a local subsidized housing complex facing egregious housing conditions, and we dedicated ourselves to creating a campaign to address them appropriately. However, these clients were skeptical of our help and unsure whether they wanted to pursue a legal route (as many community members are). We thus dedicated ourselves to creating an Outreach Plan that would build productive, trusting relationships. We met with clients over several weeks and determined how to proceed. Ultimately, though mitigating our clients' skepticism was challenging, I would not change a thing. This experience made me confident in how I speak to clients and reminded me why I choose to practice in the public sector.

I also had the pleasure of experiencing several victories this summer, the biggest of which was a settlement we secured for a client I had been working with all summer. Though settling eliminated our chance to litigate (which I looked forward to), trial was likely to be stressful and possibly counterproductive. Thus, I am grateful to have drafted the settlement terms, locking in a victory that preserved our client's dignity and guaranteed them compensation.

Overall, my fellowship with the Legal Aid Justice Center was eye-opening. I walked away from its ten-week program feeling confident in my ability to practice law, and motivated to continue serving low-income and vulnerable communities. I am extremely grateful to have fought for justice in the housing world, an area that pervades all of our lives.