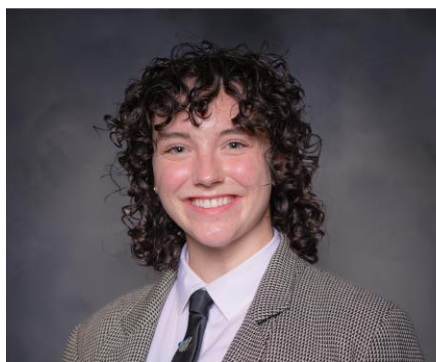




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Devin Bean
LAW SCHOOL	University of San Diego
ORGANIZATION	ACLU SoCal

Update 1:

Today was my first day at ACLU SoCal. I attended orientations and met my new supervisor, Christine. She asked me to review "Community Lawyering" by Charles Elesser, to get a better idea of the advocacy style at the ACLU. It was very interesting and helped me reframe how lawyers participate in social change and grassroots advocacy. Together, we set some goals for my summer internship, and I expressed my excitement to get involved in community outreach, observing litigation, and developing a writing sample. We discussed the areas that my new team is currently working in, and I was given my first assignment. I will be assisting another senior staff attorney with a project relating to name changes and LGBTQ+ rights in the workplace.

Update 2:

After two weeks with ACLU SoCal, I am so invigorated by the work this team is doing. I have had the privilege of observing a hearing, sitting on team calls, and learning more about the cases ACLU SoCal is currently working on. I will be helping with the process of drafting a Motion for a Mandatory Settlement Conference. I have written a few email memos about research into employment law, discrimination, and harassment in response to an intake I took with a potential client.

Update 3:

I've been getting involved in drafting a Brief for a Mandatory Settlement Conference that is upcoming later this summer. I have been outlining causes of action that include negligence, implied warranty of habitability, retaliation, and several Constitutional claims. It has been exciting to use my 1L coursework knowledge and see it in action!



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Update 4:

I got to attend court last week in Orange County for a mandatory settlement conference. It was such a pleasure to meet our co-counsel team, and our clients face to face. I also am working on a final research project to close out the summer which is about transgender discrimination under the Unruh Civil Rights Act at summer camps

Final Reflection:

This summer has overall invigorated me in pursuit of a career in public service. Thank you to EJA for making it possible for me to pursue my dreams. I am so grateful to have been a part of several projects that will make the world a more equitable place. I feel like I learned the most about FEHA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act this summer and how California law already has many protections against discrimination, but I also learned how people can fall through the cracks even in those expansive laws. I want to commit my career to filling those gaps and using litigation as the ACLU does, to expand on people's rights. The attorneys and staff I have learned from have inspired me to keep up my hard work in the hopes that I may return to the ACLU someday!