



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Northwest Workers' Justice Project

Update 1: I am very excited to announce that I have accepted an internship with the Northwest Workers Justice Project. I look forward to the opportunity to advocate for workers while expanding the legal knowledge I began to build in my first year of law school. Furthermore, it will be an honor to serve the immigrant community in the Pacific Northwest in an area of the law that often neglects them, at a time where support for our communities is critical.

Update 2: After completing my first year at the University of Washington School of Law, I am very excited to announce that I will be beginning my internship with the Northwest Workers Justice Project on June 22nd. Over the summer I will have the opportunity to work with NWJP to assert low-wage, contingent, and immigrant workers' rights through litigation, legislative advocacy, and community outreach. It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with them, and I could not be more excited to get started.

Update 3: This summer, I have had the opportunity to work closely with low-wage and immigrant workers throughout the Pacific Northwest, advocating for their rights in the workplace. As a law clerk at NWJP, I have been able to engage directly in efforts to support workers who are especially vulnerable to exploitation and intimidation particularly at a time when federal policies have created an environment in which some employers feel emboldened to disregard workers' rights. Through this experience, I have come to appreciate the resilience of the communities we serve and the transformative power of collective action. I have also seen firsthand how the law can be a meaningful tool for protecting workers and advancing justice when it is used in service of those who need it most.

Update 4: This week, through my work with NWJP, I had the opportunity to connect with attorneys from across the West Coast to discuss recent legislative changes impacting



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protections for temporary work visa holders in Oregon. Our discussions reinforced how changes in local legislation extend well beyond state borders, influencing legal advocacy in neighboring jurisdictions while also prompting nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups to adapt their internal processes and service delivery to meet evolving legal landscapes.

Final Reflection: This summer, my work with the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP) in Portland, Oregon, brought both significant challenges and meaningful victories. It was my first experience working for a nonprofit organization that combines legal casework with community organizing and outreach. My greatest challenge arose not from the legal work itself, but from determining which cases NWJP should accept and how those cases could advance workers' rights and labor organizing more broadly.

When I joined NWJP, I wanted to accept every case that came through the door. Each client seeking our help deserved support and was facing a clear need. Over time, however, I learned that litigation is not always the only or most effective resource available. Local unions, community organizations, and administrative agencies can also provide meaningful avenues for relief. I came to understand that a nonprofit legal organization must make difficult strategic decisions, directing its limited resources toward cases that can both serve individual clients and improve the broader legal landscape for workers.

This experience taught me that litigation is only one tool in a lawyer's pursuit of justice. Learning when and how to use that tool requires careful judgment and developing that discernment is neither simple nor comfortable. Yet it is a skill that will guide me throughout my career, not only in evaluating cases but also in making the difficult decisions that attorneys regularly face. Many moments from the summer stand out, including the collaborative discussions surrounding each case-screening decision. One experience, however, will remain especially vivid. My first assignment at NWJP was to draft a federal court complaint in a discrimination case involving a woman who had been sexually harassed at work. As I reviewed her case file, including text messages between her and her supervisors, I confronted the reality of what she had endured and the conditions under which she had been forced to work. Comparing those facts with the sterile language of the governing statute revealed the profound gap between legal doctrine and the lived experiences it is intended to address.

As I move forward in my legal career, I will carry with me a deeper understanding of the complexity of clients' circumstances and the limits of legal remedies. Most importantly, I will remember that effective advocacy requires more than knowledge of the law: it demands strategic judgment, empathy, and a willingness to see the person behind every case.