



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	ACLU of Southern California

Update 1:

I'm excited to share that I have finished my first year at University of California, Irvine School of Law and I have started a role as an Advocacy Intern at ACLU SoCal in their Economic Justice Team! In this position, I am working to advance the goal of dignity for all by advocating for systemic reform and the end of discrimination and economic repression. I am passionate about housing as a human right and am excited to share that I have been doing important work to advance budget justice. Additionally, I am supported by the amazing team at Equal Justice America, who are working to expand the capacity for law students to conduct legal aid.

Update 2:

As an advocacy intern, I have had the extraordinary privilege to take part in important litigation work, interact one-on-one with clients, and strengthen my legal writing skills. In this position, I am working to advance the goal of housing as a human right, including through policy work at the state level. I would again like to thank the amazing team at Equal Justice America. I admire the work that they do to aid law students' ability to contribute to the public interest.

Update 3:

Time flies! Over these past few weeks, I have had the privilege of working on legal research and advocacy to hold municipalities in California responsible for upholding the rights and dignity of our unhoused population. I have also had the opportunity to work with multiple community organizations and legal aid organizations that are all doing their part to advance this important work. I'm enjoying getting to learn from the different and talented attorneys who are devoting their time to protecting people who are economically vulnerable and advocating for equitable opportunities in housing and beyond.



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Update 4:

I continue to have the privilege to work alongside the amazing attorneys and advocates at the ACLU SoCal. As we approach the end of the summer, I have had the opportunity to see a final push for some of our large impact litigation projects and legislative advocacy. I have been deep in legal research and have gained invaluable experience in drafting and coordinating. One of the greatest experiences has been working alongside our dedicated community partners in the Inland Empire who have been working tirelessly to advance housing justice for our unhoused community members. We are unable to do our work without the input and expertise of members in the community. More than a legal mandate, we are working to ensure that municipalities uphold the spirit of affirmatively furthering fair housing.

Final Reflection:

As the summer ends, I would like to reflect and give thanks to the organizations that have supported my growth in the legal field. Thank you so much Equal Justice America and the ACLU SoCal. In my work at the ACLU SoCal, I gained invaluable knowledge and experience in legal writing, the day-to-day work of a public interest attorney, budget advocacy, and policy advocacy.

At the beginning of my internship, I worked primarily on budget advocacy in the Inland Empire region. This involved analyzing various counties' budgets and creating a response and recommendations for how the budget should be changed. This work gave me experience advocating for funding to support housing goals and exposure to existing resources on the efficacy of Housing First policies.

Additionally, I was brought on board to the large-scale housing litigation case that my unit was working on with a large law firm. This work involved drafting proposed orders, research, and coordination of clients. Throughout the summer, I also worked on a case that the California Civil Rights Department referred to mediation. I wrote a legal memo regarding the issues, which later translated into portions of a mediation brief.

I also had the opportunity to assist individuals brought in through intake on the ACLU website. This work was difficult because of the complex issues facing the unhoused community in Southern California. However, we were able to provide individuals with resources and inform them of their rights for issues going forward.

Finally, I worked alongside colleagues at ACLU California Action on one of the bills that they were spearheading called the California Housing Justice Act. I attended and helped facilitate various meetings with government staff and co-sponsors.



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This experience was fundamental to my development as a law student and future public interest attorney. I learned that I deeply loved the large-scale work that a public interest attorney can do, and I enjoyed working with the various advocacy groups in Southern California. The ACLU is privileged to work with many amazing organizations and people who bring their expertise to economic justice and our work in housing and homelessness. Going forward, this experience solidified my deep desire to work to advance housing as a human right and improve the conditions of unhoused community members in California. The wave of criminalization of unhoused people following the Grants Pass decision can only be combatted by innovative people who are looking to fight unjust regulations and policies that discriminate against unhoused individuals.