



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Kallie Barrie
LAW SCHOOL	UC Law SF
ORGANIZATION	Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Update 1: Last week I began my clerkship at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children where I'll be spending my summer gaining experience in impact litigation for prisoner's rights. I am incredibly excited to learn more about what it looks like to be a movement lawyer. LSPC is full of so many incredible organizers and policy experts that have so much firsthand knowledge to offer to make me both a better attorney and advocate, so I am excited to have the opportunity to listen and learn from them throughout the summer and be a part of this great community! There are a lot of full staff meetings and large projects that I will have the opportunity to be a part of that will get me out of the little lawyer bubble in the back corner of the office which will be a nice change of pace. Throughout this past semester I have really been struggling with the dehumanization of people in law and in law school and this has been an incredibly good reminder not just of the resilience of people but of the light of life they can provide. Abolition is so much more than a fight- it's also community.

Update 2: So far, I have been working on legal research and policy impacts on sentencing relief. It's interesting how much there is to learn about *specific* penal codes and propositions. One major project that I just wrapped up was distilling information about California Proposition 47 relief, which was passed in 2014 but the deadline to file for felony to misdemeanor status for crimes was changed from November 5, 2022, to no deadline at all. However, in 2024, Proposition 36 was passed, which severely limits the number of felonies that qualify for relief under Proposition 47. So, all of our resources were out of date and incorrect. I had to (a) update everything which was rather boring, and (b) which was thankfully more interesting distill the information into a "one-pager" (four pager) that gave pertinent information on the overlaps for citizens and non-citizens alike for qualifications and impacts. For the litigation arm of it all, I've been knee deep in Penal Code § 3006 which is all about the banning of contraband for various



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

reasons— but often for inciting a riot, sexual behavior, or violence. There are over 500 banned books on the CA CDCR banned books list and many, quite simply, just should not be there.

Update 3: These past few weeks have been busy! I feel incredibly unconfident in everything I am doing. Being a law student is a very strange position because people assume I have knowledge when in reality I have 9 months more legal know how than a literal bear in the woods. Everything do is a guess and every question I answer to my boss or to a client with my boss is caveated with "I don't know..." or "this is my best guess?"

I'm interested to see what my work will look like by the end of the summer. I am definitely learning a lot. I can rattle off penal codes and tell a somewhat theory on what would work litigation wise... but I am truly never confident that what I am saying is the best bet. Nor should I be. But I spend 6 hours a day reading and parsing through these materials, hunched over archives to how penal codes have changed, and agonizing over definitions of just a certain word – so it feels like I should feel just a little better about what I am saying.

Update 4: I'm almost done with my clerkship which is wild. I have to do a presentation in my final week for the nonprofit so everyone understands what a book ban is and I'm surprised I even know what a book ban is and all the different ways litigation strategy can happen for it! I did write my first demand letter, and it did demand some things.

My memo is nearly done, I need to write a legal corner for the newspaper, and I just need to wrap things up! It's wild how quickly 8 weeks has gone. I really do feel like I have learned so much. I hope I get to keep doing work like this or that the work I did is actually helpful. It's so strange being in a non-direct services space. Coming from a healthcare background aid was so measurable. I could tell if an intervention was helpful or not almost immediately. But on this side of things, aid or assistance won't be noticeable for if it's helpful in a few years or until the next legislative cycle. So, it's incredibly hard to measure progress or impact.

Final Reflection: I wrapped up my fellowship officially on August 7 but agreed to continue throughout the semester to pursue the litigation I was assisting on research with. I learned a lot throughout my time with LSPC, but especially what movement lawyering can look like.

To finalize my fellowship, I wrote a template and draft complaint that I can use as a writing sample for future job opportunities, especially as this helped me solidify that I want to pursue this type of litigation. I also helped in finalizing Prop 47 resources and how they were impacted by Prop 36. These resources had been so out of date that they did not include impacts of Prop 36 which was passed in 2022 and repealed a lot of Prop 47's misdemeanor reclassifications regarding theft and drug crimes.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

My final project, which will be public this September, was an article regarding First Amendment restrictions in Prison Systems surrounding book bans that will be published in LSPC's partner organization's magazine, *All of Us or None's* Legal Corner. In this article I explained the legal landscape of the CDCR Disapproved Publication List, how those incarcerated may challenge publications that are on the disapproved list, and the legal landscape surrounding these challenges and what hurdles there are to be overcome.

Overall, I had to grow a lot this summer, both interpersonally and professionally. My workspace was incredibly casual, so I struggled finding a balance of how to be both approachable and serious- as came out in my supervisor review. Another aspect I struggled with is how much I know I don't know. My colleagues would ask me questions expecting legal responses as the legal staff was incredibly small and was doubled with the clerks' presence. As I was in office 5 days a week and presented as a resource by the attorney team – I was used as one. Always with attorney supervision, of course, but it often resulted in me having to say, "I'm unsure, let me check." Which I learned is great in practice – but difficult when staring someone in the face. Especially when the question was so seemingly simple, and so many of my fellow staff members were jail house lawyers and they could answer easily, the pressure of potentially being wrong but having an ethical misstep behind me weighed heavily. My supervisor and I discussed these ethics often – especially as they stemmed from a background of me being uncertain of my incredibly limited background thus far as a lawyer since I just had completed my 1L.