



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	UCLA School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles

Update 1:

Just found out I will be observing my first-ever hearing next week as part of my summer clerkship! It's exciting and a little nerve wracking to move from 1L to actual court proceedings.

Update 2:

I attended my first hearing yesterday, receiving permission from the SSA ALJ to observe via phone. I was surprised by how quickly the hearing transpired and beyond impressed by the live interpreter communicating everything instantly while on a conference call. Please join me in supporting Equal Justice America and their ability to in turn support law students around the country working to help those who need it most.

Update 3:

I can't believe my summer with NLSLA is more than halfway over. I am feeling far more comfortable interacting with clients now than I did in May, and I am very grateful to my team for the wide range experience they are offering to me.

Update 4:

It's hard to believe that my summer clerkship is coming to an end next week. I have learned a lot about how to fight vigorously and professionally on behalf of my clients, and I am looking forward to taking the lessons I learned this summer and applying them to my 2L coursework.



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Final Reflection:

I am grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting my summer clerkship with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles. My work with the public benefits team was incredibly impactful on me as both a student and budding legal professional.

As I stare down the start of my third semester of law school, I feel more confident in my legal research and writing skills thanks to my time with NLSLA. I also had my first opportunity to practice oral advocacy on behalf of my clients, which will serve me well no matter what field of law I go into after passing the bar.

But my overall most important experience from my time with NLSLA this summer was learning how to navigate client relationships. All my clients were in extreme distress due to the interruptions to their benefits. Whether they came to us because Social Security was alleging overpayment of their hard-earned benefits or the county government had denied their application for food stamps, I was working with people going through one of the most stressful periods of their lives.

I learned from my experienced team of attorneys and paralegals how to balance the empathy and emotional intelligence required to treat these clients as humans with the mechanical efficiency necessary to be an effective attorney cutting through bureaucracy to advocate for our clients. This is a difficult balancing act, one that I will certainly be working on improving for the duration of my legal career. But I am certain that my experiences this summer provided me with a strong foundation in this regard.

I am proud to have secured multiple wins for clients over the course of my clerkship. I secured the restoration of monthly CalFresh benefits for a family of asylees, convinced Social Security it was wrong in seeking to collect on an alleged overpayment of benefits to an elderly client dependent on her monthly benefit to pay her bills, and secured a waiver of another overpayment for a client who lacked stable housing. It felt nice to win, but it felt even better to deliver the news of these wins to clients who rely on these benefits to put food on the table or make their rent payments each month. I will be rejoining NLSLA during the school year to continue working with the public benefits team on a pro bono basis.