



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	UCLA School of Law
ORGANIZATION	MALDEF

Update 1: I recently finished my first year of law school at the University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law. I am currently working as a legal summer intern at MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. This summer I will be working alongside staff attorneys to serve the Latino community in civil rights matters involving education, immigrants' rights, employment, voting rights, and access to justice. I am finishing up my second week, and so far, I have gotten the opportunity to engage in legal research and writing to support ongoing litigation in relation to Latinos' education rights.

I am grateful to be a recipient of the Equal Justice America fellowship, which has provided me with the financial support I needed to pursue a civil rights internship this summer. I am a first-generation college graduate and come from a low-income background. Without this fellowship, it would be very difficult to pursue a public interest summer internship. This fellowship has given me the ability to fund my summer living expenses while engaging in impactful work this summer.

Update 2: In these few weeks, I have had the opportunity to engage with impactful litigation on behalf of immigrant communities and Latinos. I have been conducting legal research on emerging unprecedented legal issues to expand Latinos' access to justice. I have also been doing legal research in regards to MALDEF's ongoing litigation to defend regular tuition rates for undocumented students. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to implement the knowledge and skills I have gained this past year in law school while also strengthening my legal research and writing skills.

It has been a privilege to work alongside dedicated attorneys and my fellow legal interns.



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Update 3: I can't believe I am more than halfway done with my legal internship at MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund as an Equal Justice America Fellow.

These last few weeks, I have greatly developed my confidence in my legal research and writing skills. As a first-generation college graduate and someone whose first language was not English, sometimes self-doubt creeps in regarding my legal writing skills. However, through engaging with fast-moving assignments involving complex legal issues of first impression over the last few weeks, I have realized that I am very capable of being a great legal writer and advocate, especially regarding issues impacting marginalized communities.

I have had the opportunity to work on litigation protecting undocumented students' access to regular tuition rates in Oklahoma and Kansas. In Oklahoma, undocumented students have already been stripped of their access to regular tuition rates. This has resulted in tuition increases of at least double for undocumented students. MALDEF is advocating on their behalf, and I have had the opportunity to engage in important legal research and writing supporting this litigation. In Kansas, MALDEF filed a motion to intervene in a federal lawsuit seeking to eliminate regular tuition for students without lawful immigration status. I also supported the drafting of this motion through legal research and writing.

These are only a few of the various assignments that I have had the privilege to work on this summer. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to defend and uplift members of my Latino community.

Update 4: This is my Week 8 update as an Equal Justice America Fellow at MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. I can't believe my time at MALDEF is almost done.

These past two weeks, I have been working on a race and age employment discrimination case. Specifically, I have been conducting legal research and writing to support MALDEF's response to attempts to exclude some of the expert witnesses in our case. I have really appreciated getting to learn more about different areas of law during my time at MALDEF.

I have also engaged with some of MALDEF's investigations into issues of first impression affecting Latinos' civil rights. I also observed MALDEF's intake process and learned about the different considerations and people involved in deciding to take on a case.

Throughout this summer, I have met many former and current MALDEFians. As part of the intern summer program, MALDEF has exposed us to Latinos in different areas of the legal field. We



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have met Latino judges, law professors, renowned civil rights attorneys, and advocates. I have felt empowered through these connections and admire their excellence and dedication towards advancing social and racial justice.

My experience at MALDEF has reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career as an impact litigator and follow in the footsteps of those before me.

Final Reflection: My time at MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund as an Equal Justice America Fellow has come to an end. I am extremely appreciative of MALDEF for trusting me with time-sensitive research and writing assignments involving complex legal issues of first impression. Through these assignments, my confidence and legal research and writing skills have greatly strengthened. I feel honored to have supported ongoing impact litigation on behalf of Latinos, especially at a time when Latinx communities have been experiencing many civil rights violations. I worked alongside staff attorneys on civil rights matters involving education, immigrants' rights, employment, and access to justice.

I had the opportunity to work on litigation protecting undocumented students' access to regular tuition rates in Oklahoma and Kansas. MALDEF moved to intervene to protect challenged state laws that provided undocumented students access to regular tuition rates. In both cases, the United States challenged these laws and sought to block MALDEF's intervention. I completed legal research and writing in support of MALDEF's motion to intervene in Kansas and MALDEF's response to the United States' Opposition in Oklahoma and Kansas. I also supported MALDEF's race and age discrimination lawsuit against the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office. Through this case, I gained significant insight into the pre-trial litigation process. I learned about deposition strategies and the standards for expert witnesses. My work on this case was to protect the inclusion of expert witnesses. I also completed significant work in support of a confidential investigation exploring an avenue for expanding immigrants' access to justice.

I greatly appreciate my intern coordinator and MALDEF's attorneys for their meaningful mentorship. They provided me with guidance in my assignments and helpful career advice that has helped me truly envision myself as a civil rights litigator. I am also immensely grateful for my fellow interns who made coming into the office something to look forward to.

I end my internship with confidence in my legal skills and with a renewed dedication to do impact litigation on behalf of marginalized communities. I could not have asked for a better summer internship experience!