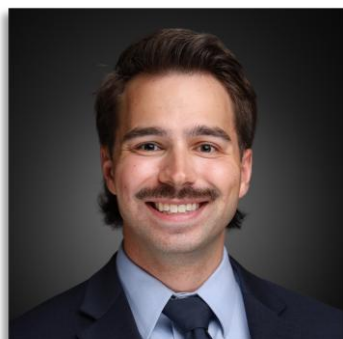




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Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Logan Boyer
LAW SCHOOL	University of North Carolina
ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid of North Carolina

Update 1: I am excited to share that I've officially started my internship with Legal Aid of North Carolina in the Centralized Intake Unit in Raleigh working to help streamline access to civil legal services in areas like housing and unemployment benefits. I'm grateful to continue my legal learning under the supervision of Laura Esseeesse and Benjamin Holt.

I want to thank Hetali Lodaya for her help during the application and interview process, Cole Voorhies at the UNC Law CDO for referring me to Legal Aid, and to my professors at the University of North Carolina School of Law for their invaluable career guidance.

I would also like to thank Equal Justice America for offering me the Equal Justice America Summer 2026 Fellowship to support my work this summer expanding access to justice and ensuring all individuals regardless of income have access to civil legal representation.

To that end, I have signed up to help those who are most vulnerable in our justice system. I believe that by working together, we can uphold the promise of "justice for all," and create a more fair and equitable legal system.

Update 2: During my Summer internship for Legal Aid of North Carolina in the Centralized Intake Unit, I've been able to gain first-hand experience talking to clients about the legal issues they are experiencing ranging from housing eviction to denial of unemployment benefits. I was able to help a client facing an eviction by giving advice on the appeals process, explaining the benefits and risks of different options, and providing helpful LANC materials and information on our Courthouse Clinics in Greensboro and in cities across the state. It has been an enriching experience applying civil procedure principals that I learned from University of North Carolina School of Law and to learn more about the nuances of the law specific to North Carolina.



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I'm reminded that the legal system can feel intimidating and unfair to clients in receiving an unfavorable judgment and feel like you have nowhere left to go for legal issues. That is why legal aid is so important, because even if we are unable to represent a client in court, we can still listen to their story, provide pertinent advice, and give them the tools they need to make the decision that helps them reach their goals.

Update 3: Just this week working for Legal Aid of North Carolina in the Centralized Intake Unit, I was preparing to participate in an appeals hearing with the North Carolina Division of Employment Security to conduct direct testimony with a client seeking unemployment benefits.

Instead of performing a direct examination of our client, I got a crash course on the reality of being a lawyer, with the adverse party neglecting to provide their evidence in advance of the hearing in violation of the appeal process. This forced me and my supervising attorney to rapidly react to new information that upended our legal theory and the questions we were prepared to ask, but thanks to my legal education at the University of North Carolina School of Law and my time in the 1L Kilpatrick Mock Trial Tournament, I was prepared to think on my feet and adjust our legal position.

This experience also imparted in me how to have tough conversations with the client when things do not go as expected, especially when the other side neglects to follow the proper procedure. That's why legal aid is vital in being able to help people navigate a legal system that can feel confusing at times with frequent objections and chaotic witness testimony.

Update 4: Just this week working for Legal Aid of North Carolina in the Centralized Intake Unit, I called a client prepared to give advice on how to bring a rent abatement action against the landlord for failing to timely repair her A/C unit. The temperature in her place was in the 80s with the recent heatwave and my client has a high-risk pregnancy, so I was ready to refer her case to the local Legal Aid office for prompt action.

Thankfully, when she picked up, she reported that maintenance had just come out and fixed her A/C and that the unit was now in a habitable condition. Her efforts in reaching out to the landlord to document the repair attempts were successful in getting her landlord to act and return her place to a habitable condition.

This experience taught me that although the legal system can be incredibly useful to address our clients' issues, not every solution needs to come through the legal system, as the actions our clients take can be just as effective in bringing the desired change that reaches their goals. While the published cases we read for class at University of North Carolina School of Law are insightful



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and influential, the vast majority of cases never make it to trial, and thus it was beneficial to see firsthand an issue resolved without needing to go to trial and bring timely relief to my client.

Final Reflection: I have officially concluded my internship with Legal Aid of North Carolina. I want to thank my amazing supervisors Laura Essee and Benjamin Holt for providing me with an enriching experience that deepened my knowledge in areas of the law like housing and benefits as well as giving me plentiful opportunities to improve my client interactions, my proposed advice, and direct questioning in building client testimony for a hearing.

It was immensely rewarding to be able to directly interact with and provide legal advice to clients all across North Carolina. Each client came with a different story, different facts, and a different challenge to solve. Challenges clients were facing could range from navigating the appeal process to how to bring a rent abatement claim against a landlord, and my supervisors and the rest of the attorneys at Legal Aid were incredibly helpful for answering all the questions I had.

Victories from the summer include successfully representing a client in preserving their unemployment benefits and writing a memo to be used going forward to address abuse of discretion in agency decisions as a violation of due process.

This experience shaped me personally through the positive feedback I received from clients on the advice I provided giving them more clarity on the legal issue they were facing. The experience affected me professionally as well though events like the Public Interest Summit in Raleigh where I networked with public interest organizations and interns across the state.

I can't wait to return to my classes at the University of North Carolina School of Law with a more focused intention on how the many ways the law can be used to help clients and push for positive outcomes when the law might not be on your side.

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