



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	American Civil Liberties Union

Update 1: As part of my fellowship with Equal Justice America, I am happy to share my first EJA Fellow Update! Over the past few weeks, I've worked as an intern in the ACLU's Voting Rights Project.

Since starting, I have had the pleasure of working on some of the most pressing voting rights issues while also being surrounded by passionate and exceptional lawyers.

Update 2: I have officially worked in the Voting Rights Project at the ACLU for a month, and it has been a true pleasure being surrounded by talented and passionate attorneys dedicated to protecting our democracy.

Over the past month, I have worked on various challenges across the country to state and federal governments attempting to limit the right to vote. Furthermore, I am participating in election safeguard work in preparation for upcoming elections.

Update 3: Working with ACLU's Voting Rights Project continues to be an incredible experience. Over the past few weeks, I have been involved in election safeguard efforts, helping prepare for upcoming elections by supporting work designed to protect voters and ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Update 4: Over the past few weeks, I have continued supporting the Voting Rights Project through our work in Louisiana following Callais and our election safeguard efforts. These experiences have deepened my understanding not only of voting rights, but of civil rights more broadly. I'm grateful for everything I have learned so far and look forward to making the most of my final days with the project.



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Update 5: As I wrap up my EJA Fellow Update series, I'm reflecting on an incredibly meaningful summer with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to contribute to the Project's work in Louisiana following *Callais*, as well as efforts to safeguard elections. Working alongside attorneys and advocates on these matters gave me a deeper appreciation for the intersection of voting rights and the broader fight for civil rights, while also providing lessons that I will carry with me throughout my legal career.

I'm deeply grateful to the Voting Rights Project for welcoming me this summer and for the opportunity to learn from such dedicated advocates. I'm equally thankful to Equal Justice America for making this experience possible and for its continued investment in students pursuing public interest law.

Final Reflection: My summer at the ACLU in the Voting Rights Project was wonderful. The ACLU is an organization that I have applied to work at many times. Admittedly, it was the organization that I went to law school hoping I could join. I consider it a great honor to have worked with such an impactful organization, particularly one with brilliant and impressive lawyers.

A significant part of my work involved supporting the Voting Rights Project's efforts in Louisiana following the Supreme Court's decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*. I primarily worked on a state legislature gerrymandering case that was deeply affected by *Callais*. I also had the opportunity to work on *Callais* itself, which, as a legal nerd, was really fulfilling.

Working on these matters allowed me to see how developments in constitutional and voting-rights law translate into concrete consequences for communities and voters. It also showed me how many people it takes to conduct litigation at a high level. While there, I assisted with legal research and analysis and gained a deeper understanding of the strategic considerations involved in responding to rapidly developing litigation. In each case I worked on, we had multiple organizations as co-counsel. Seeing the considerations that go into play in bringing a case and making a particular argument was insightful. The experience also reinforced for me the importance of careful, rigorous legal research in civil rights advocacy, where the outcome of a legal question can have consequences extending far beyond the parties to a particular case.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Project's election-safeguard work. This work exposed me to another dimension of voting-rights advocacy: protecting access to the ballot not only through litigation, but also through preparation, monitoring, and rapid response. Seeing



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attorneys and advocates work proactively to identify and address threats to voting access gave me a broader appreciation for the range of tools necessary to protect democratic participation.

I am incredibly grateful to the Voting Rights Project for welcoming me this summer and entrusting me with meaningful work. I also appreciate how welcoming the Project is. At no point during my summer did I feel that I was less than any of the attorneys, which is a testament to the culture in the Project. I am also grateful to Equal Justice America for making this experience possible.