



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	University of Virginia School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Southern Center for Human Rights

Update 1: Last week, I began my legal internship with the Southern Center for Human Rights, a nonprofit law firm dedicated to equality, dignity, and justice. SCHR has protected the rights of those most impacted by the criminal legal system in the Deep South for over 50 years. I am generously supported by a summer fellowship with Equal Justice America, which works to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent law students from pursuing public interest careers. I am excited to share my first #EJAFellowUpdate!

This summer, I am primarily working with SCHR's Capital Litigation Unit, which represents death-sentenced individuals in Georgia and Alabama. I am also participating in SCHR's Alabama Parole Project, through which I will advocate for a parole-eligible client before the Alabama Parole Board. Over the past two weeks, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the most talented, passionate lawyers in the field. I am grateful to contribute to such meaningful work, and I am excited to continue learning and growing over the summer.

Update 2: I am almost halfway through my legal internship with the Southern Center for Human Rights, a nonprofit law firm in Atlanta that has been fighting to protect human rights across the South for fifty years. With the generous support of EJA, I have had the opportunity to work on the Southern Center's postconviction, resentencing, and parole work across Alabama and Georgia. I have had the pleasure of learning from some of the best lawyers in the field and working alongside the most passionate, talented future lawyers in the country. The Southern Center's work is important, and I am overjoyed to be a part of it!

Update 3: I'm over halfway through my summer fellowship with Equal Justice America.



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Working with the Southern Center has been immensely rewarding. Over the past few weeks, I have been focused on research and investigation for a client's state habeas petition. I have also prepared and submitted an advocacy packet to the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles on behalf of my client, who has been incarcerated for over 27 years. I have learned so much thus far, and I am excited for rest of the summer!

Update 4: Over the past few weeks, I have continued working with the Capital Litigation Unit by interviewing witnesses, drafting pre-hearing motions, visiting clients, and researching legal issues. I have also supported the team's preparation for a hearing on an EMNT. I feel honored to do this work and excited for the final two weeks of my summer with the Southern Center!

Final Reflection: I spent my summer with the Southern Center for Human Rights, which proved to be a truly transformative experience. Throughout the summer, I supported the Southern Center's death penalty litigation and parole efforts in Georgia and Alabama. Being born and raised in Alabama influenced my decision to attend law school and pursue public interest work, so the opportunity to do this work back home was especially meaningful to me. This experience strengthened my passion for prisoners' rights and my resolve to pursue postconviction litigation after law school. I am immensely grateful to everyone at the Southern Center—including my fantastic and talented co-interns—for making this summer so meaningful, as well as Equal Justice America for supporting my public interest summer.

If you would like to support students like me who are pursuing public interest careers and internships, please consider donating to Equal Justice America.

