



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Ben Jackson

Law School: IIT Chicago Kent College of Law

EJA Fellowship: Upsolve

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

Over the past few weeks, I have been working with Upsolve.org to streamline the Chapter 7 paralegal review process for people struggling to get out of debt. We've got the process down to a science and were able to serve 2x as many people last week as the week before. I am so proud to be helping this team give debtors a fresh start! #EJAFellowUpdate #legaltech #justice @ChicagoKentLaw @LawLaboratory

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

"Need to file bankruptcy? That'll be \$2,000, please!" 63% of Americans cannot afford to cover an unexpected \$500 emergency (<https://buff.ly/2tvsllyb>) so why on earth should the path to financial freedom cost 4x that amount on average? Short answer? IT SHOULDN'T. That's why I've been working with the Upsolve team to help debtors help themselves regardless of their ability to pay. Check out the exciting work we're doing at www.upsolve.org. #EJAFellowUpdate #legaltech #justice #bankruptcy #debt #finance

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

One of the things I love most about the Legal Tech community is the chance to collaborate with brilliant people united in pursuit of justice for all. My day yesterday: watching the Upsolve team set a new record for the number of debtors served in one day, followed by a fascinating discussion with the Community Lawyer team about clever ways to democratize emerging tech. Working in this space feels like every day is Christmas and that opening your presents requires solving the most interesting puzzle ever with your best friends. It doesn't get any better than that! Technology is revolutionizing the way that Americans engage with the legal system, and I could not be more proud to play a role in that transformation. To learn more about the inspiring work that Upsolve is doing, check us out at www.upsolve.org. You can find more info about the movers and shakers at Community Lawyer at <https://buff.ly/2uvRspY>. #EJAFellowUpdate



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

I knew that my summer with the Upsolve was going to be great, but I underestimated just how awesome it was going to be by roughly five orders of magnitude. Over the past nine weeks, I have watched this scrappy band of entrepreneurs completely transform the consumer bankruptcy space. Upsolve has now helped 100+ people get a fresh financial start, and we have 200+ more who are well on their way. With last weeks' expansion to 48 states, those numbers are about to get really big, really quickly. I couldn't be more proud of the work that we're doing!

This summer has taught me two very clear lessons: 1) The Law, when it is taken out of the hands of the powerful and placed into the hands of the people it was meant to serve, is the single most effective catalyst for economic equity that we have. 2) I want to dedicate my career to facilitating that transfer of power. Technology has paved the way to creating a world where there truly is justice for all, and I am thrilled to stand with visionaries like Upsolve as they usher in this new era.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to those who have supported me this summer. To Jonathan and Rohan at Upsolve - thank you for believing in me and trusting me to help advance your vision. To the ATJ Tech Fellowship, Equal Justice America, and The Kent Justice Foundation - thank you for providing the financial support that allowed me to dive into this summer's work with abandon. To Alex Rabanael and Dan Katz at Chicago Kent's Law Lab - thank you for introducing me to Upsolve, and for creating a space where law students can break free from the ridiculous slog of conventional legal practice and actually make a difference in the world. To all of you, my friends and family - thank you for your boundless patience and encouragement as I've worked to figure out what the hell I actually want to do with my life. □ I've never felt a stronger sense of inspiration and purpose than I do now, and I couldn't have gotten here without each and every one of you. I can't wait to tell you more about this incredible summer in person over the weeks to come!

I'm thrilled to announce that I'm going to be continuing my work with Upsolve after the summer fellowship ends on 8/7. They're doing some truly innovative things, and I am miles beyond kid-in-candy-store thrilled to be along for the ride! If you haven't already done so, please check out our work at www.upsolve.org.

Together, we're making Justice more just.