



## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Miles Walser

**Law School:** University of Wisconsin

**EJA Fellowship:** New York Legal Assistance Group—  
Tenants' Rights Unit

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### Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

**#EJAFellowUpdate**-- I've spent the last few weeks as an intern at New York Legal Assistance Group in the Tenants' Rights Unit. Our unit is a part of NYC's new Universal Access to Counsel initiative, which entitles all low-income tenants in the city facing eviction to a free lawyer. While the program isn't completely rolled out yet, when I encounter a client who is in one of the currently-covered zip codes, it's an indescribable feeling to get to say "yes, we will absolutely represent you."

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### Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

**#EJAFellowUpdate** -- I've been spending a lot of the last few weeks of my internship in housing court, both assisting attorneys as they represent clients and conducting intakes for new clients. Housing court is a hectic, fast-paced civil court in New York, and I've learned how essential it is that all tenants have the opportunity to be represented during such stressful procedures. One of the highlight of my last few weeks in housing court was having the opportunity to file a motion that stopped an imminent eviction, buying my client more time to pay off the arrears they owed. It is an honor to use my law degree to help people avoid homelessness.

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### Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

**#EJAFellowUpdate** -- The past couple weeks have had definite high and low moments. I assisted an attorney with a particularly difficult client, who, in part because of a bad history with the legal system, did not trust our desire to help and expressed interest in firing us. It was a good reminder to remain humble as an attorney and try to keep my client's experiences ahead of my own ego. I am also assisting a staff attorney in preparation for an oral argument to defend an administrative decision awarding our client the return of a large amount of rent he was illegally overcharged. It will be my first appearance before a judge and I am excited to put my moot court practice to work! Overall, I'm more than happy with the decision I made to pursue a public interest summer and spend my internship advocating for tenants.



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## Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

**#EJAFellowUpdate**-- My summer at the New York Legal Assistance Group is almost over, and it has been an honor to be serving tenants in New York City. Over the last few weeks, I've prepared a research memo for an attorney prepping for a housing court trial, assisted in an oral argument, and helped advise new clients during intakes at the courthouse. This summer I've learned about fast-paced, high-volume advocacy, and the huge difference that a little bit of help can make in a tenant's life. I feel even more committed to fighting for housing as a human right, and am very confident that I've made the right choice for my legal career. I will miss NYLAG and cannot wait to finish law school and get to work! I could not have done this work over the summer without the financial support of **Equal Justice America**. Please consider donating so that public interest law students can continue to spend their law school summers changing lives and making a difference.