



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Dylan Crary
Law School: Berkeley Law
EJA Fellowship: Public Counsel

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018



Dylan Crary

1 hr · 🌐



Hello facebook friends and fam,

This summer I have the privilege of working at Public Counsel with their Opportunity Under Law unit. I am supporting ongoing impact litigation efforts aimed at ensuring literacy, housing, and trauma-informed care for students across the country.

Equal Justice America helps make my work and similar work possible with generous grants for students working in the public interest. Part of my agreement with EJA is that I'll post bimonthly updates about my work throughout the summer. This is the first of those updates.

If you'd like to support similar work, you can donate to EJA via the link below!

#EJAFellowUpdate Equal Justice America



Equal Justice America 2018 Fellows' Fundraiser

According to the American Bar Association, 80% of the civil legal needs of those living in poverty are going unmet. Equal Justice America is committed to guaranteeing legal support for those most in need. Help EJA expand their...

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Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018



Dylan Crary shared a Page.

Just now · 🌐



#EJAFellowUpdate Hi all, this is my second EJA update of the summer. The past two weeks with the Opportunity Under Law team have been primarily dedicated to crafting a lawsuit aimed at obtaining reunification and mental health services outside of detention facilities for mothers and children separated at the border. You can find the complaint and declarations here: <http://www.publiccounsel.org/stories?id=0252>

I'm incredibly lucky to work under and learn from the brilliant and passionate attorneys at Public Counsel who are working tirelessly to remedy the trauma caused by Trump's cruel and unnecessary separation policy.

My summer at Public Counsel is partly funded by Equal Justice America. If you'd like to support Equal Justice America so that they can continue to finance my work, and the work of my peers, check out the link below!
 Equal Justice America

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Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018



Dylan Crary

2 mins · 🌐

#EJAFellowUpdate Hi folx! This is my third of four EJA updates for the summer. Today was an exciting day as the Opportunity Under Law team went to court to watch Director Mark Rosenbaum argue for California students' right to access to literacy. The judge seemed to become increasingly sympathetic to the argument that students who attend dysfunctional schools are a cognizable class. Further, we're hopeful that we'll be able to get to trial by exerting that California's statewide education system has an unconstitutional disparate impact on low-income students and students of color with regard to their access to literacy. Parent organization and plaintiff CADRE was also there to support. It was incredible to see the organizing power of CADRE and the legal research done by Public Counsel (which I got to help with!) influence a judge's thinking.

I'm able to continue learning from and working with the Opportunity Under Law team in part because of the funding provided by Equal Justice America. If you'd like to donate to EJA so that they can fund more social justice oriented summer fellowships, you can do so through the link below!



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Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate



Dylan Crary

2 mins · 🌐

#EJAFellowUpdate Hi all! This is my final EJA update of the summer. Three years ago, I spoke with Public Counsel attorneys regarding a literacy-focused lawsuit they were filing on behalf of Detroit students. I described to them the shocking conditions I had witnessed as a teacher and the policies I thought responsible. Over the next few months I helped connect the attorneys to other teachers and students in Detroit. The lawsuit they later filed seemed to me to be one of the few mechanisms available to force the intransigent Michigan government to provide better learning environments for Detroit students. Their lawsuit inspired me to apply to law school.

This week, in support of an upcoming appeal of the Detroit Literacy case, I researched the origins of Michigan's emergency manager law and my former employer, the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan (now rightfully defunct). It's still infuriating that a state government can 1) implement decades of policies that facilitate the shrinking of Detroit Public School's student population, 2) refuse to relieve DPS and the current students they serve of long-term pension/capital obligations, while instead allowing new segregated suburban districts to start fresh and devote their entire state funding allotment to operating funds, 3) use DPS's inevitable deficit to justify appointing a democratically unaccountable emergency manager with no education experience to take total control of the DPS's budget and operations, 4) have that emergency manager create a new state education agency which takes over some of DPS's newest school buildings and fires every teacher and principal at those schools overnight, 5) run that school agency into the ground with pathetic planning, blatant corruption, and paltry resources, and 6) still take no responsibility for the fact that thousands of Detroit students were without books and teachers for years and therefore were denied access to literacy. So, we're working on that.

This summer, I've been able to learn from the incredibly passionate and tenacious lawyers of Public Counsel in part because of funding provided by Equal Justice America. If you'd like to donate to EJA so that they can fund more social justice oriented summer fellowships, you can do so through the link below!



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RE: Dylan Crary, EJA Fellowship Recipient

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben:

My name is Annie Hudson-Price and I am a staff attorney with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law project. I was Dylan Crary's supervising attorney while he was a summer law clerk here.

We feel incredibly lucky to have had Dylan in our office this summer. He was a great help providing crucial research and writing for much of our on-going impact litigation. Below is a list of some of Dylan's work over the summer.

Dylan:

- Crafted declaration guides, developed a chronology of events, and provided legal research regarding the state-created danger and special relationship doctrines developed in *DeShaney* for our case seeking release of and mental health services for families separated at the border;
- Drafted a motion to proceed under pseudonyms, researched trauma-focused trainings, supplied statistical information on foster youth outcomes, and wrote memos on recent legislation for our lawsuit seeking trauma-informed practices throughout New Mexico's foster care system;
- Wrote memos on Eighth and Ninth Circuit exceptions to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's exhaustion requirements for upcoming education rights cases in St. Louis and Contra Costa County;
- Supported research for a suspect class analysis that was part of our prevailing strategy against California's demurrer motion in our case on behalf of California students exerting their right to access to literacy; and
- Researched and wrote about the history of homelessness in Los Angeles. His writing was used in our complaint against the City of Los Angeles alleging the illegality of a procedural tool used by city councilmembers to deny the development of permanent supportive housing.

It was also a genuine pleasure to work with Dylan. He has a wonderful attitude, he is hard working, open to feedback, and eager to support the mission of Public Counsel. His prior experiences in education as a teacher and policy researcher have proven useful to analyzing the systemic education deficiencies and civil rights violations we seek to address.

We are so grateful to Equal Justice America for providing fellowship funding to social justice oriented law students like Dylan. We could not do our work with them.

Please reach out if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie Hudson-Price".

Annie Hudson-Price
Public Counsel
Opportunity Under Law
Staff Attorney
(213) 385-2977 ext 238