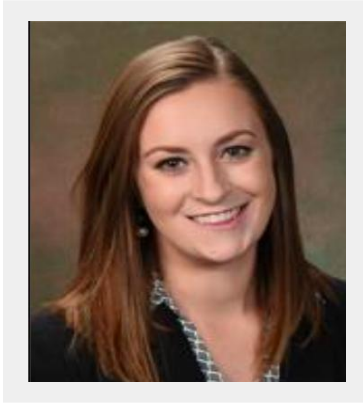




## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Maria Stickrath

**Law School:** William and Mary Law School

**EJA Fellowship** PELE Special Education Clinic

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the last few weeks, I have worked with the Special Education Advocacy PELE Clinic to provide legal support to families in the Hampton Roads area with children with disabilities. In just a few short weeks, I have had the opportunity to dive right into special education law, attend an IEP meeting, and work directly with clients. I really enjoy having a lot of responsibility and gaining experience in client interactions.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

Today at the PELE Special Education Advocacy Clinic I had the opportunity to give a presentation with my coworkers to the James City County Department of Social Services! Our presentation was in conjunction with the Williamsburg James City County School Division to give social workers an overview of the laws governing special education, the IEP process, and the rights of foster parents during the IEP process. I am so happy to have a job that allows me to improve on skills like public speaking, and gives me a lead role on projects like this.



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

#EJAFellowUpdate

I have been at the PELE Special Education Advocacy Clinic for over a month now! I have enjoyed gaining more experience in legal writing, improving my public speaking skills, and gaining experience communicating with clients. I am also excited to attend an eligibility meeting soon to see how that differs from an IEP meeting, and to be leading that meeting! It is great knowing that I have an integral role in making sure that students with special needs receive the services they need.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

I'm sad to say this is my last Equal Justice America Fellow update as my internship is almost over! While my experience at the PELE Special Education Advocacy is winding down, my last two weeks are still going to be exciting because it is almost time for the Institute in Special Education Advocacy (ISEA) Conference! I am excited to help run the conference, attend the sessions and learn more about special education law and advocacy, and to network with other lawyers and advocates in the field. Working at the PELE Clinic has been such a pleasure and I am happy to have had the opportunity to gain experience and to help families in my community.