



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Natalie Fulk

**Law School:** Notre Dame Law School

**Fellowship:** Legal Services of South Central Michigan

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### Entry 1: June 11, 2019

This summer, I am working at Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) for Washtenaw County, with the support of an Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship. Throughout the summer, I will be posting updates on my work and experiences. LSSCM is a program that provides direct legal services to low-income individuals and older individuals in cases involving housing, public benefits, health care, consumer matters, and more. LSSCM is a branch of the Michigan Advocacy Program, a statewide non-profit organization that provides direct legal aid and advocacy. I am just beginning my third week working at LSSCM and I feel like I have already learned and done so much. Right now, I am working with supervising attorneys on many different cases, including a landlord-tenant eviction case, a Social Security benefits denial case, and a Food Assistance Program denial case. I even appeared on the court record for the first-time last Friday! This opportunity to gain so much hands-on experience and work directly with clients has been invaluable to me so far and I look forward to the rest of the summer!

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### Entry 2: June 29, 2019

I have just finished my fifth week at Legal Services of South Central Michigan. This past week, I won my first case, which was really exciting! I wrote a brief ahead of an administrative hearing to argue that my client's Food Assistance benefits were wrongly terminated. Then, the case was resolved in my client's favor before even having the hearing. This showed me the importance of communicating with opposing counsel to try to resolve cases. It also showed me how important legal advocacy is for clients of all income levels, because they all deserve an equal chance at justice.



**Entry 3: August 5, 2019**

I just finished my last day of work at Legal Services of South Central Michigan. This summer flew by, I still feel like I just started working. Everyone at Legal Services was so incredibly hard-working, talented, and passionate about the people they were working for. Getting to learn from them was such a valuable experience and it helped me think about my own career path and the ways that I want to help others with my work. I am so grateful for this opportunity and will go back to law school thinking about the legal profession from a new perspective.