



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Regina Williams

Law School: Regent University

Fellowship: Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

Entry 1:

I was selected to be one of the Equal Justice America's fellows this year and it is a great honor! I am currently interning at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) in Richmond, Virginia for the summer. So far my experience has been very informative. The cases that I have primarily been working on have been child custody cases, no-fault divorces, and unemployment compensation. Additionally, I have been to the courthouse to view cases involving unlawful detainers. For those who do not know, Richmond has the second highest eviction rate in the nation! CVLAS has been collecting data to find out ways to combat the eviction rate here in Richmond. I am thoroughly enjoying my experience here and I look forward to the rest of the summer!

Entry 2:

Sentence 1: My second #EJAFellowUpdate is a little late but I've been kept so busy the past few weeks. One of my goals before my internship is over is to conduct an unemployment hearing at the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC). But in the meantime, I had the pleasure of drafting a memo for a case that went to the special examiners at the VEC. I was able to watch my supervising attorney argue the case with the information including in my memo. It brings me great joy to see my work unfold in this way and to see how creative arguments come into play. Another case that brought me great joy was getting a client out of a toxic situation with her landlord and into a new home. She was so thankful after court she gave a great big hug! It is seeing the smiles on our clients faces after helping resolve their problems, that makes my job so much more rewarding!!



Entry 3:

Last week I worked on one of the most rewarding cases of my experience thus far. One of my clients was getting ready to be evicted from her home. This home was the only sentimental item she has left of her mother and it has been in the family for 30+ years. She had a domestic issue with her ex-partner that caused her to violate the lease which was due to no fault of her own. Long story short, we argued the motion to quash her eviction and it was granted. After we left the courtroom, she gave us a big hug and you could see the tears in her eyes forming because she was so thankful. To add to that it was her birthday and she said it was the “best birthday gift.” The look on her face just gave me the satisfaction that I am in the right field and fulfilling my purpose. The joy she felt makes me feel like the work I do here can change someone’s life and it makes this so worthwhile. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.