



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Rebecca Tzucker

**Law School:** University of Illinois

**Fellowship:** Legal Aid Chicago (formerly LAF)

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### Entry 1:

My first two weeks at LAF have come and gone in a blur! I am so thankful for the opportunity to spend the summer interning with such a great organization and providing legal assistance to low-income clients who are unable to afford the legal help they need. I will be spending ten weeks on the “Veterans Task Force,” and already I have seen the huge impact LAF has on claims for VA benefits or discharge upgrades. The highlight of my experience so far was attending a Veterans’ resource fair and getting to hear firsthand from Veterans how they can benefit from legal assistance.

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### Entry 2:

It’s hard to believe I am almost halfway done with my internship. So much has happened already – including a name change! Going forward, LAF will be known as “Legal Aid Chicago.” In other news, I am learning a lot about the legal needs of Veterans in the local community. While it can be disheartening to hear from our clients about how they’ve been denied the compensation or benefits that they deserve, it also motivates me to work harder to make a difference.

We recently held a workshop to assist Veterans with requesting their military medical records, and it showed me that legal aid is beneficial at any step in the process.



**Entry 3:**

I'm taking this opportunity to reflect on my experience so far at Legal Aid Chicago as a summer legal intern. I have gained so much experience, from improving my legal research and writing skills to learning the ins and outs of working at a legal aid organization. Throughout it all, the most meaningful piece has been the chance to see how a law degree can be used to help others get equal access to justice. While my work this summer has focused on Veterans, I know there are many other groups out there that also need legal help, and I hope to continue engaging with those communities.

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**Entry 4:**

Hard to believe 10 weeks have come and gone! I am so grateful to Legal Aid Chicago for letting me join them as a legal intern for the summer, and to Equal Justice America for making it financially possible for me to live in Chicago while I worked. The attorneys and staff at Legal Aid Chicago are so extremely passionate and dedicated about ensuring equal access to justice, and interning with them was an inspiring and informative experience for which I am very thankful.