



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Taylor Jones

Law School: University of Michigan

Fellowship: ABA Center on Children and the Law

Entry 1:

Update on my life! I was selected as one of this summer's Equal Justice America Fellows, and I am a legal intern with the ABA Center on Children and the Law in D.C.! I am working on their Education Project doing research on the educational rights of children and youth in foster care. These last two weeks I had the opportunity to travel to the Hill to sit in on a congressional on Infant-Toddler Court and part of the House Judicial Committee's markup of the Dream Act of 2019. Outside of that I have been doing research on the educational rights of foster youth that have turned 18. Specifically I am seeing whether they may make certain decisions about their own education.

I am truly looking forward to spending my summer in D.C. and working with the amazing staff of the Center. I am so thankful that I am able to do this work because of the Equal Justice America Fellowship!

Entry 2:

I have been living the dream out here in DC! I am still absolutely loving my internship with the ABA Center on Children and the Law! These last few weeks I have been working on an issue brief on best practices for school discipline of youth in foster care. Since my last update I have been to multiple congressional briefings, some relating to child welfare cases of babies who test positive for drugs at birth, another was a celebration of 20 years of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. I am learning a lot from impressive child welfare attorneys and I'm looking forward to my next few weeks with the organization! I am so thankful for my equal justice America funding, without which I couldn't be out here doing this amazing work!



Entry 3:

Getting sad as we start closing in on the last few weeks with the ABA! This past week we had the opportunity to hang out with most of the staff at the Center for Children and the Law and talk outside of the office about their lives as advocates for children. Working with these amazing people has really set an example for the type of attorney I hope to be once I graduate. I am so appreciative of my time at the ABA

I also had the opportunity to hang out with interns from the different departments at the ABA as we went to tour the capital! Hearing about the various projects they are working on including those relating to the death penalty, asylum/immigration, and domestic violence really highlighted how neat it is to be at the ABA.

As for my work...I'm close to finishing my issue brief on how schools can implement better policies and practices if they have to discipline youth in foster care. I am looking forward to getting some feedback on this work as well as the interesting events we have coming up. Super thankful that this opportunity is available to me largely due to my fellowship.

Entry 4:

I'm back in Michigan! Yesterday was the last day of my internship with the Center on Children and the Law, and I must say... what an experience. I truly enjoyed working with amazing advocates and getting to do some real, substantive work.

Since my last update I had the opportunity to do some court watching. I sat in on some divorce and custody cases and a case involving cps. It was an interesting opportunity to see how lawyers handle these sensitive situations, and shed a lot of light on the type of lawyer I hope to be.... NEXT YEAR!!!

This week I wrapped up my work on an issue brief for schools on best practices for student discipline of youth in foster care. I hope that my work can help schools improve their practices and learn how to handle the unique needs of youth in foster care. Addressing the unique needs of youth in foster care helps not only those students but all students, and can even help prevent future misconduct.

Sad to be leaving DC, but am very excited that I am entering my FINAL YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL. Can't wait to see what more is to come!