



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Benjamin Levine

**Law School:** UCLA School of Law

**Fellowship:** Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

---

### Entry 1:

I'm working as a summer associate at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, an awesome organization offering free legal representation to low-income clients.

Over the past few weeks I have been learning the ins and outs of defending tenants in eviction cases and have already had some meaningful opportunities to help keep vulnerable Los Angeles tenants in their homes. I have written reasonable accommodation letters on behalf of disabled clients to help them get extra leeway in dealing with the eviction proceedings against them, motions that have been filed on behalf of clients in LA Superior Court, deposition questions to help establish facts to support our cases, and more. I'm glad to be working with an organization that helps people in need and is also able to offer me great experience along the way. My Equal Justice America Fellowship has been a big help in making this happen – EJA is a great organization that sponsors law students like me who are doing legal services work at nonprofits.

---

### Entry 2:

My summer with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles keeps on giving, and low-income tenants' problems never seem to let up.

For the past couple weeks I've been helping with a lawsuit against a particularly awful landlord who allowed her tenants — including a late-stage MS patient — to live in terrible conditions: rats destroying appliances, holes in the ceiling with rain pouring through, and worse. Glad to be able to fight for recompense for our client and to prevent this landlord from treating other people so terribly in the future. It's been a valuable experience, and a big shout out to Equal Justice America for sponsoring me with a fellowship.



### **Entry 3:**

For the past couple of weeks, I have helped out with the initiation of a lawsuit against a couple of governmental bodies to seek an injunction preventing them from displacing an encampment of 30-40 homeless people until the government can offer them some place to go. To help build our case, I've helped with everything from interviewing people living at the encampment to writing the motion for an injunction, and it has all been really inspiring and exciting work. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to do meaningful work like this this summer, and it has opened my eyes to the many great things the law can do to prevent wrongs and improve people's lives.

---

### **Entry 4:**

I've wrapped up my summer experience at Neighborhood Legal Services, and looking back I'm incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities I had to gain hands-on experience using the law to help tenants stay in their homes while working on some truly compelling affirmative claims as well. I feel very inspired to dive into my 2L year and focus on preparing for a lifetime of legal public service to benefit the underserved, and I can't wait for my next opportunities to do so outside of the classroom. Big thanks to Equal Justice America for helping to make this happen and for doing the same for so many other law students. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.