



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:

Name: Emma Hulse

Law School: UCLA

Fellowship: Advocates for Children

Entry 1:

Just a week and a half ago, I returned to NYC to begin my summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow with Advocates for Children of New York! After three years away from the City, I'm excited to be back in the trenches. I've already been to my first IEP meeting, and I'm working on two impartial hearing requests to ensure that students receive the support they need to learn. Through my cases, I'm also learning more about an issue that I'm passionate about: the rights of emergent bilingual students in special education. I'm proud to work on behalf of families to ensure that all young people receive an empowering education.

Entry 2:

I am about two thirds of the way through my summer internship at Advocates for Children of New York and I'm furiously writing impartial hearing requests. Two of the clients I'm working with weren't identified as students with special needs for years despite signs that they needed help. Without support, they fell far behind their peers. We're suing for compensatory tutoring to make sure they can learn to read and write confidently. Reading and writing was so important to my growth as a young person, and I'm thrilled to be working alongside their parents to make sure they can access their right to literacy. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.

Entry 3:

My final weeks at Advocates for Children were busy ones, as I worked on editing know your rights materials for parents, researched official guidance on working with English Learners with disabilities, explored New York Human Rights Law, helped a parent prepare for an impartial hearing, and answered questions from parents who called AFC with questions about the upcoming school year. The opportunity to work on such an exciting range of direct service and policy projects brought my summer to a satisfying close. Special education cases are not quick-fixes - nothing gets resolved in a single summer- but I loved getting the opportunity to meet and work with awesome parents and young people who are in it for the long haul, and I learned a lot about the practice of education law in the process. Now that I'm back in Los Angeles (!) my summer experiences will help me think more carefully and deeply about how I want to contribute to the educational justice movement as an attorney.