



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Hayley Hahn

Law School: University of Virginia School of Law

Fellowship: Legal Aid Justice Center,
Charlottesville, VA

Entry 1: June 6, 2019

This marks the third week of my internship with the Legal Aid Justice Center's JustChildren program. So far, I have been fortunate to work on a variety of special education and juvenile justice cases. I have especially enjoyed interacting with clients through conducting intake and follow-up interviews. In addition to direct interactions with clients, I have engaged in several research projects on a variety of education law topics. This work has enabled me to learn more about special education, school discipline, and school enrollment processes. In addition to my formal work assignments, LAJC has provided me with other learning opportunities, such as the opportunity to observe a trial in the federal district court. This experience reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career in litigation. Watching the LAJC attorney advocate fiercely on behalf of her client underscored the importance of improving the accessibility of legal services. All individuals, deserve access to effective legal representation, regardless of their income. I am grateful for Equal Justice America's generous support, and look forward to continuing to work with clients and conduct legal research!

Entry 2: June 30, 2019

This week, I was fortunate to attend a meeting with Virginia education law advocates. Hearing stories of the successes and challenges they have encountered in their work inspired me. I especially enjoyed the collaborative, supportive nature of the meeting. It was a privilege to hear about the work individuals are doing across the state. Back at the office, I have continued to enjoy working on research projects and serving clients. One of our major projects is developing a Legal Education series for residents at Bon Air Correctional Center. I really enjoyed designing these lessons, and look forward to delivering them to the residents over the coming weeks. Apart from working on the Legal Education series, I had the opportunity to work on a series of memos related to civil procedure and federal courts issues. Though the concepts were challenging, I appreciated having the opportunity to learn more about these areas of law. Learning about these issues in the classroom is important; however, engaging with these concepts in the context of pending or potential litigation underscored their importance in a more pressing manner than my classroom experience. As I continue to engage in this work, I



look forward to continuing to explore new areas of law while connecting with clients, advocates, and other members of the community.

Entry 3: July 14, 2019

This summer is flying by! Over the past couple of weeks, I continued to develop the lesson plans for our legal education series for residents of Bon Air Correctional Center. We will present these lessons this week. I hope residents find the material informative and engaging, and that they enjoy the games and other activities we designed. This week, we also had the privilege of hosting a group of Mandela Fellows from the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Comprised of attorneys and other social justice activists, this group of fellows shared their advocacy experiences with us. Although working as a legal aid attorney in the United States presents many challenges, these challenges pale in comparison to the obstacles faced by many of the Mandela Fellows, obstacles which can include risk of death for challenging the government. Listening to the Mandela Fellows speak provided useful international context for our work at the Legal Aid Justice Center. I left the talk inspired by the work of these courageous advocates across the globe, and deeply grateful for many of the structural and procedural safeguards our legal system provides. Still, much work remains to be done to ensure that all people enjoy the protections and benefits of America's system of justice. As I prepare for the final two weeks of my internship, I will continue to reflect on the testimony of the Mandela Fellows, to approach my work with the same zealous regard for clients and justice the Mandela Fellows exhibited.

Entry 4: July 27, 2019

Yesterday was the last day of my internship at the Legal Aid Justice Center. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work for the JustChildren program at LAJC. Through my internship, I gained valuable direct client-services experience. I especially enjoyed interacting directly with our client at Bon Air Correctional Center. In particular, I appreciated having the opportunity to plan and present lessons on the Serious Offender Review hearing process to the residents at Bon Air. The residents seemed engaged and enthusiastic throughout our lessons, and offered insightful questions and comments throughout these presentations. I also enjoyed researching diverse legal questions. From civil procedure and administrative law matters to topics pertaining to bullying in schools and juvenile justice reform, my summer research assignments exposed me to a broad range of issues. Though my experiences were varied, each impressed upon me the importance of ensuring accessibility of legal services for civil, as well as criminal, cases. I am thankful to Equal Justice America for supporting me in this internship. I hope to help repay this investment, at least in part, by remaining committed to supplying legal representation to underserved communities, whether through a career in legal aid, or else, significant pro bono work. My summer at LAJC demonstrated to me the profound impact legal aid attorneys can have on the lives of clients and their communities through direct representation and impact litigation. I look forward to continuing to serve marginalized individuals and communities through volunteering, pro bono, and clinical experiences as a law student, and later, as an attorney. Thank you to Equal Justice America for supporting my work this summer; I found the experience enlightening and inspiring, and look forward to continuing to pursue this work in every way I can.