



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Charles Bonani

Law School: Washington and Lee University
School of Law

Internship: Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond

Entry 1:

I am excited to announce that I was selected this summer as an Equal Justice America fellow, and am currently interning at the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) in Richmond, VA. I have just completed my second week of work and am thoroughly enjoying the experience. As part of LAJC's Economic Justice Program, I have been privileged to learn about the serious public housing issues that affect Richmond's most vulnerable citizens. I have also been able to attend court proceedings in both local and federal court.

Entry 2:

The past two weeks have been productive and engaging as I continue my internship at LAJC. I have done extensive research on housing regulations, including on due process protections for public housing tenants facing property demolitions, and have sat in on numerous client intake meetings. This has given me a firsthand look into the process of gathering information and taking on new clients. I have also been privileged to work on a housing assistance termination case and will have the opportunity to lead an informal grievance hearing this week.

Entry 3:

The workload has really picked up as I start the seventh week of my internship at LAJC. I was given the opportunity to lead an informal grievance hearing in which I put my legal skills to the test while advocating for our client. I was also privileged to write a memo arguing against federal preemption of a Virginia law governing



landlord-tenant eviction issues. These have been invaluable experiences and I am looking forward to making the most out of my last four weeks here at LAJC.

Entry 4:

Time has flown by at LAJC as I head into the final couple weeks of my internship. I still have more to do but I feel good about the contributions I've made to both the office and the clients that we serve. I have been a part of both successful and unsuccessful representation, and have gained invaluable lessons along the way. This work is vital to our clients and I am grateful to have a positive impact on the lives of others while gaining legal experience at the same time. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.