



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Aaron Jacobs

Law School: Columbia Law School

Organization: New York Legal Assistance Group

Week of June 15th

In conjunction with Equal Justice America, an organization supplementing funding for my summer internship at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), I'll be making a few short updates about my work!

It's now the second week at my remote internship. I'll be splitting time between the foreclosure prevention project and the taxi medallion project. Although many New Yorkers are struggling, the moratorium on foreclosures until at least August 20th has temporarily slowed the stream of new foreclosure clients. The taxi medallion project began prior to the pandemic to support drivers who took out loans to purchase taxi medallions before the value of those medallions plummeted. COVID-19 has dramatically exacerbated the situation for drivers who were already struggling, but now have barely been able to work in three months. I'm looking forward to assisting foreclosure and taxi medallion clients this summer with NYLAG!

Week of July 6th

I'm now halfway through my summer internship with the New York Legal Assistance Group. Much of my work has been with New York City taxi drivers who are struggling to afford their taxi medallion loans. It is a serious situation explained in this article: <https://lnkd.in/d5yJiZ6>.

Despite drivers' incredible work ethic, these loans are often insurmountable. New York City recently floated the idea of a bailout for many of these drivers, but budgetary alterations stemming from COVID-19 have put that plan on hold. For now, NYLAG is helping these clients to obtain more favorable repayment terms. But it's still tough. With almost no demand for taxis and tremendous health risk associated with driving strangers around, many drivers have almost no income right now. It has been extremely valuable for me to speak directly with these hard-working drivers and to assist them in achieving economic security.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

LEGAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIPS

I'd like to thank Equal Justice America, an organization supplementing my funding for this summer, for their support.

Week of July 27th

I have almost completed my summer internship with the Foreclosure Prevention Project at NYLAG. Free legal services are essential to so many New Yorkers. Thanks to Equal Justice America for contributing to my funding this summer!

Week of August 10th

Last week, I finished my first official job in the legal profession! I worked as a summer intern in the Foreclosure Prevention Project of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). The entire internship was held remotely.

In part, my internship was not what I expected when I initially accepted the position back in February, before the pandemic began. I expected to be working at an in-person intake clinic on Long Island as well as assisting at in-person settlement conferences. None of that happened. Fortunately, a moratorium has been placed on foreclosure proceedings in New York City. I still interacted with a number of foreclosure clients via phone calls and email, and I drafted some research memos about their cases, even if I didn't get the full sense of what happens in court.

Additionally, I worked on another one of NYLAG's initiative, the Taxi Assistance Project. This initiative is designed to help NYC taxi drivers, many of whom have huge medallion loans for their taxis, to renegotiate these loan agreements. Although upsetting to hear about how severely many taxi drivers have been impacted by COVID-19, I was glad I could offer a little hope and assist them on their path to economic stability.