



## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Natheena Tyler

**Law School:** Duquesne University School of Law

**Organization:** Education Law Center

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### Week of June 15th

I am happy to say I am officially a rising 3L at Duquesne University School of Law! As some of you may know, I am interning at the Education Law Center-PA in Pittsburgh this summer. Because of COVID-19, I am completing my internship remotely from my home in Virginia. My internship is being funded by the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Summer Fellowship Program. I have also been selected as an Equal Justice America Fellow for Summer of 2020! As an Equal Justice America Fellow, I will have the opportunity to work in public interest law and become part of a lifelong network, joining some of the most talented legal professionals in the field.

So far, I have been learning a lot about education law and using my knowledge of criminal law and contract law and applying it to the goals of the Education Law Center. Stay tuned for updates about my internship throughout the summer. I can't wait to learn more about what it means to be a civil rights attorney!

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### Week of July 6th

The summer is flying by and it is time for my second EJA Fellow Update! It is hard for me to believe that my time at the Education Law Center-PA Center is half way over. I have already learned so much about education law and practicing law in general.

Since my last update I have spent some time reading about and looking special education, the Pittsburgh Public Schools Code of Conduct, and issues surrounding the funding of public schools in Pennsylvania. I have gotten exposure to areas of public education that I had never given much thought to before. My current work is surrounding the use of police in schools. This topic could not be more relevant to the current events happening in society today. Analyzing impacts that having police in schools is only the beginning of what can be a lifetime of oppression for some people. Learning the



parallels of what happens to some children in school to adults in the country is saddening and I want to do my part to better our future. This internship is just the beginning for me.

In order for future students to have internship experiences like mine, please consider supporting Equal Justice America.

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### **Week of July 27th**

It is hard to believe that my time with the Education Law Center is almost over! I have already learned so much and continue to learn more. My final assignment for the summer is not only in a new area but also a new type of assignment. I am updating fact sheets for ELC about Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth. It is important that families have access to the information about the rights students have (and specifically of English learners and students with disabilities) in a way that makes sense to them.

It is so rewarding to be able to work on an assignment that will directly serve the families in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it more difficult to directly interact with the community so I am glad to have the opportunity to work on something I know will serve the community. It is also a reminder of how complicated “legalese” can be and how important it is to break it down and make it more digestible for people who didn’t go to law school!

Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that other law students can have the opportunity to have meaningful internships like mine!

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### **Week of August 10th**

At the close of my internship with the Education Law Center-PA, I reflect on my time there. I am so glad I got the opportunity to explore a new area of law and work with such awesome attorneys. I was able to learn about and explore the educational system in a way that I had never thought too much about. This semester, I am completing a directed research stemming from a topic I only began research during my internship, the role police in schools.

I am excited to continue along this line of work as I participate in Duquesne University School of Law's Youth Advocacy Clinic. My summer internship has already helped me understand some of the concepts and practices I will be using in the clinic during my final year of law school (here's to 3L!). The experience I have gotten this summer has been indispensable, even amidst a global pandemic!

In order for future law students to have an opportunity like this, please consider supporting Equal Justice America.