



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Antoinette (Zoe) Russell

Law School: Harvard Law School

Organization: Harvard Education Law/Trauma Learning and Policy Initiative Clinic

Week of June 15th:

So pleased and proud to have been selected as an Equal Justice America fellow! EJA is an organization dedicated to ensuring that legal help is available to those who need it most, including victims of domestic violence, asylum seekers and immigrants, LGBTQ+ students fighting for civil rights in schools, and veterans.

This summer, I am working with Harvard's Education Law Clinic and Trauma Learning Policy Initiative. The clinic partners with Massachusetts Advocates for Children to represent students with disabilities from low income families. Additionally, they seek to encourage schools to adopt safe and supportive, trauma-sensitive education approaches, so that every student has a better chance of success. I'll be posting updates about my internship periodically. I look forward to an amazing summer!

Week of July 6th:

What is being a lawyer? Is it writing briefs, doing legal research? Is it litigating, and fighting in court? Screaming (respectfully) "I object!" Sure. But it's also advocating for those that need it most, in whatever way you can, even if it's unconventional. That is what I'm doing this summer with Harvard Law School's Education Law Clinic as an Equal Justice America fellow. Throughout these weeks, we've been strategizing on how to make student voices known as an essential and necessary component in educational decision-making, and we don't need a courtroom for that.

Week of July 27th:

It has been an honor to hear the thoughts, reflections, and stories of some of Massachusetts' high school students during my internship with the Education Law Clinic at HLS. If those with educational decision-making power actually listened to the students on whose behalf they make decisions, and acted accordingly, schools would be very very different.

I am thankful to Equal Justice America for supporting my experience.



Week of August 10th:

And just like that, I finished my first legal internship. Due to COVID-19, it was nothing like I imagined it would be. In fact, it was better than I thought it would be. The project I worked on - creating a website that centers student voice in educational decision making - is far from complete, but I am so proud to have been a part of its origination. I hope to share it with everyone once it's finished. I'd like to thank the Education Law/TLPI Clinic at Harvard Law School for their incredible mentorship and encouragement this summer. Thank you for creating one of the first spaces at Harvard where I felt at home. I'd also like to thank Equal Justice America for their support of my summer endeavor. EJA helps provide meaningful, justice-oriented experiences for summer legal scholars.

This box has been checked; my second year of law school is right around the corner!