



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Alexandra O'Hehir

Law School: UIC John Marshall

Organization: The Chicago Legal Clinic

Week of June 15th

For those of you that don't know I am currently in law school at UIC John Marshall, this summer I am working at The Chicago Legal Clinic as an Equal Justice America Fellow. As my first update I thought I'd fill you in on the importance of legal aid generally. The need for civil legal aid is urgent, over 1.4 million people in Cook County qualify for legal aid today and more than 700,000 of those people will have a legal need this year.

Conversely, there are only a little more than 300 full-time legal aid lawyers in the Chicago area, and more than half of the people in need of legal help were turned away last year because there aren't enough pro bono and legal aid resources. The legal aid system in Cook County was able to serve only 200,000 of those 700,000 people last year. As a result, I am dedicating my summer to helping those in need. My work at the clinic is focused on housing issues, which as a result of COVID, are about to be one of the main issues people need addressed.

I am grateful for the opportunity to help and contribute to people's lives in a positive manner this summer!

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*information from the Chicago Bar Foundation

Week of July 6th

In continuing my work at the Chicago Legal Clinic we have been preparing for court to reopen! There have been some cases we will be withdrawing from but we have mostly been getting ready for the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums to lift at the end of this month. I am looking forward to get back "into" court, even though it will be mostly via Zoom for the time being, to help those with their housing needs



Week of July 27th

I can't believe it's about to be August! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent at the Chicago Legal Clinic and have decided to stay for the Fall semester! Things are starting to pick up at the Clinic and we have been back to "meeting" with clients via Zoom. We are getting ready for the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums to lift, which should mean an influx of clients to the clinic.

One more update and then summer is over 😞

Week of August 10th

I can't believe summer is just about over. I am so grateful for my time spent with the Greater Chicago Legal Clinic this summer! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent helping those through their housing crises. I have decided to continue on with the clinic for the fall! I am looking forward to what's ahead.