



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Irene Jeon

Law School: University of Chicago Law School

Organization: Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School

Update 1

I am excited to announce that I have been selected as an Equal Justice America Summer 2020 fellow! Through this program, I have been provided with a grant to further my interest in public service this summer at the Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School.

Although I have been working remotely for the clinic thus far, I have already been able to provide substantive assistance to a community developer on an affordable housing project in Chicago. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the need for affordable housing has become even more urgent. Therefore, the legal aid the Clinic provides is essential, especially for clients that cannot undertake such projects without legal representation.

Equal Justice America makes it possible for many students such as myself to provide legal services to often vulnerable individuals and communities. Please consider donating to this amazing program.

Update 2

I wanted to share a bit more about the work I've been doing at the Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic, especially since our workload has increased dramatically since my starting date. Since then, I've reviewed and drafted a number of contractual agreements and advised our clients on how to approach certain terms.

When you're reading so many words, many of which seem to blend together at times, it's easy to get bogged down in the details and forget the broader picture. What pushes me to read carefully is knowing that these transactions could make a world of difference for someone in need. Whether it's drafting a construction agreement for the development of a space for local artists or reviewing a loan document for an affordable



housing transaction, I am grateful that Equal Justice America has given me the support to do such work on behalf of the Hyde Park community.

Please consider contributing to the crucial work that Equal Justice America does through its sponsorships.

Update 3

The amount of work the Clinic has received has picked up yet again especially as our big affordable housing deal is set to close this upcoming Monday. The client we are representing in that deal has referred us to other organizations, resulting in two new clients for the Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic. Both of these clients serve distressed communities in the Chicago area secure affordable housing. They also work to combat the intensifying gentrification and reverse the entrenched segregation that characterize Chicago.

As some of you know, housing justice was a huge priority and goal of mine when I entered law school. I'm so grateful to [Equal Justice America](#) for helping me grow closer to achieving this goal.

Update 4

I am still continuing to work at the Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic as a volunteer for the rest of the summer, but I wanted to talk about some of the projects I have worked on for the past couple of months:

- I helped represent a nonprofit organization on a complicated affordable housing transaction, reviewing and revising loan agreements, mortgages, in addition to other types of documents typical of such transactions.

- I drafted and reviewed various documents for different organizations: construction contracts, leases, sublease policies, ownership structure certifications.

- I researched nuisance case law for a nonprofit agency looking to bring a nuisance action against a neighboring property management agency.

- I conducted meetings with clients, during which I highlighted potential issues with certain documents pertinent to the implementation of their projects and advised them on the best way to resolve those issues.

My time at the Housing Initiative Transactional Clinic has opened my eyes to the great variety of ways one can use the law to meet the needs of one's community.