



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jameelah Najieb

Law School: UC Hastings College of the Law

Organization: Disability Rights California

Week of June 15th

I am lucky to have been chosen as a fellow this summer for Equal Justice America! Due to this powerful organization, I have had an amazing opportunity to start my summer clerkship with Disability Rights California! Some of my duties throughout the day directly helps people with disabilities advocate for their legal rights and fight the systemic discriminations against people with disabilities. Please continue to support EJA so more amazing legal services to the community can continue to get funded!

Week of July 6th

“More than half of Black people with disabilities in the United States will be arrested by the time they reach their late 20’s” -Jillian Mercado on young people with disabilities more likely to be arrested.

Working as a law clerk for Disability Rights California this summer I was able to see firsthand how Black men with developmental disabilities and/or intellectual developmental disabilities are directly impacted by the prison system. I am currently working to assist two Black men with intellectual disabilities in their case for equal rights and treatment in two prisons in California. Although individually this is amazing work, we cannot forget that our advocacy never stops on an individual scale. More work needs to be done to rehabilitate and reengage people with disabilities instead of discriminate and incarcerate people with disabilities.

Thank you to Equal Justice America for this opportunity.

Week of July 27th

Paying people with disabilities sub-minimum wage is still legal in the United States. Although various states across the United States are moving towards commendably outlawing sub-minimum wages and segregated employment, California has not yet done so.



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This summer I was able to write a memorandum analyzing if California has the potential to model other state's customized employment approaches and support resources for workers who may find it challenging to transition and find integrated work.

The truth is and what my research concluded are that programs need to be into place to help this goal *before* the transition of sub-minimum wage and sheltered workshops can truly take place. We have a lot to work on and I was glad I had the opportunities to contribute to the hot topic issue in the disability rights community.

Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so they can continue helping others in pursuing public interest work.

Week of August 10th

Ended my first law school clerkship. I was tremendously inspired by the hard work ethic of the attorneys and staff at DRC. I can honestly say that DRC and my experience this summer keeps affirming my decision to be an attorney and work in disability rights and advocacy. I learned a lot about myself this summer and that is really the goal for my first 1L clerkship!

Working here I saw first-hand how to provide high quality legal access to people with disabilities and how we question the systemic issues that continue to oppress people with disabilities. I hope to continue the good fight!

Eventually as an attorney I hope to embody everything that I learned here at DRC about advocacy. This experience would not have been possible with Equal Justice America.