



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Kavya Parthiban

Law School: UCLA School of Law

Organization: Community Lawyering in Education Clinic

Week of June 15th

I am so grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting me this summer as I work with Professor Gamal at the Community Lawyering in Education Clinic.

To say interning during a time when there is a massive (and necessary) national outcry against systemic racism despite a poorly handled pandemic is inspiring is an understatement. It is a privilege to witness how community-based organizations, grassroots organizers, legal aid organizations, and everyday people are pushing us to address how our country has continually devalued and targeted Black folks. At the Community Lawyering in Education Clinic, we are working to support local organizing groups as they address white supremacy in our schools and move to push the police out. Schools are the largest welfare and social service providers in our country. Yet, a significant portion of our school budget goes to law enforcement who disproportionately target Black and Brown students instead of investing more in needed socio-emotional support for our students of color.

We are in a time where school districts are moving to end contracts with the police. I encourage you to learn from and donate to organizations that are spearheading this work:

Black Organizing Project: <http://blackorganizingproject.org/our-work/>

CADRE: <http://cadre-la.org/newhome/>

Week of July 6th

I am so thankful to be able to work with the Community Lawyering in Education Clinic. Although COVID has made it difficult to do direct legal representation this month, I have learned a lot about the systemic racism that persists in our country's child welfare and education systems. Hearing stories about the continual surveillance of poor families inspires me to continue fighting in solidarity with these communities through engaging in direct services."



Week of July 27th

I am so thankful to be working with the Education Law Clinic at UCLA. I am learning a ton about the intricacies of school discipline law and how to support young people with disabilities who disproportionately face school discipline.

Week of August 10th

I feel so blessed to have worked with the Education Clinic. This final week I am wrapping up planning for a Family Preservation event, researching how courts limit parental rights of poor parents, and training the LA Public Defenders on how to serve students with disabilities who are facing school discipline. This summer, I learned about the importance of including marginalized parents and community members while working with young people. I also saw how our legal system often over surveils and denies a voice to poor parents and students with disabilities.