



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Lane Spears

Law School: University of Virginia School of Law

Organization: Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

Week of June 15th:

This summer I am interning remotely for Central Virginia Legal Aid Society in Charlottesville. I have been working on consumer law and landlord/tenant cases. With many more people currently facing evictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, being able to provide advice and representation during this crisis is so important. Having legal representation makes it more likely that someone will be able to stay in their home. I went to law school to help people and I'm so grateful for this experience.

Week of July 6th:

Time for another update on my internship at Central Virginia Legal Aid! Last week I drafted my first subpoena. It has been great to learn more about strategies to advocate for clients. As eviction hearings begin in VA and more people need representation, I am glad this internship will allow me to help people avoid being evicted during this pandemic.

Week of July 27th:

Part of my internship this summer was to research challenges that people who have been released from incarceration may face and how to advise them. There are countless barriers to re-entry that those who have not been incarcerated don't think about including barriers to accessing employment and housing.

Week of August 10th:

My internship this summer was not what I expected because of the pandemic. I'm grateful I was able to work and learn remotely to protect clients and the Charlottesville community as a whole. I was able to work directly with clients, listen to settlement negotiations, and prepare cases for trial (even though they ended up being postponed until the courts could safely open). Please consider donating to Equal Justice America to support legal service fellowships like mine to help ensure those who can't afford a lawyer are able to access the assistance they need.