## **Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:**



Name: Benjamin A. Schoenkin

Law School: Washington University School of

Law

**Organization:** Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Entry 1: June 16, 2020

As some of you know, I am receiving funding through Equal Justice America for my internship this summer at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. I cannot believe I am already into my fourth week! One of the most interesting projects I have been working on is researching special education during this time of COVID-19. I have also been learning about many different areas of law through my work in the Youth and Family Advocacy and Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness programs.

Like many law students around the country I am working remotely, and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri has put together a top-notch internship program. It is as if we were in the office.



Equal Justice America helps many public interest students like me pursue this important work. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that public interest law students can continue to pursue this important work.

## Entry 2: July 8, 2020

Summer and my amazing internship at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is speeding by. We are into July and it is time for my second Equal Justice America Fellowship update.

Over the past few days, I have been working on a presentation that the Youth and Family Advocacy Program will be giving on peaceful protests, First Amendment Law, and related state laws. Given my prior experience as a journalist, I am enjoying the research quite a bit. It has also reminded me of one of my favorite undergraduate classes, Media Law. Regardless of issue, opinion, or party it is important that people are made aware of their First Amendment rights and this project has given me the opportunity to gain a broader knowledge regarding these rights.



In just the past several weeks, I have already learned quite a bit from all the attorneys I work with. Even while being in a virtual world, they always make themselves available over video to answer any questions or to provide career advice. I know that the skills I am strengthening and learning this summer at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri will be very useful in my future legal career.

To make sure law students are able to pursue

important public interest work, please consider supporting Equal Justice America.

## Entry 3: July 28, 2020

I feel like it was only yesterday that I made my first Equal Justice America Fellowship update post, but that was weeks ago and there are less than two weeks left in my internship at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

This summer has been incredible. So far, I have researched everything from trust and estates to special education to housing law to the First Amendment. As I mentioned in my previous post, I was working on a presentation regarding First Amendment rights, specifically the right to free speech. Today, I assisted one of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's amazing attorneys with an informational presentation on the First Amendment.



The skills and experience I am gaining this summer will stay with me for my legal career. To help make sure that other students like me are able to have experiences like this, please consider supporting Equal Justice America.

Entry 4: August 11, 2020

My last day of my internship at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri was on Friday. 11 weeks could not have gone by more quickly.

From the first to the last day, it was an amazing experience. Legal Services of Eastern Missouri provided a top-notch internship program. Everyday there was something new. I had the opportunity to experience just about everything in the Children's Legal Alliance, Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness, and Youth and Family Advocacy programs. Whether it was writing memos, writing drafts of court documents, assisting with a presentation, observing an IEP meeting, or assisting with virtual intakes, I enjoyed every minute of it.

I cannot thank Legal Services of Eastern Missouri enough for a great summer. To help ensure that other students are able to have a similar experience, please consider supporting Equal Justice America.

