



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Aristotle Mannan

Law School: Boston University School of Law

Organization: Homeless Advocacy Project

Update 1: I was recently assigned my first case to assist a veteran at risk of becoming homeless. It has been an experience thus far that has informed me about numerous gaps in the system and the need for legal services that meet people where they are. I am hopeful that I can help my client stay housed and give him the dignity that he deserves.

Update 2: I have had an amazing experience at the Homeless Advocacy Project, with great legal mentorship and opportunities to obtain real world experience. Increasingly, I have realized how essential direct service is to better understand "tip of the iceberg" systems level issues that perpetuate disparities among marginalized populations. I am grateful for EJA providing me with the resources to make this summer a reality!

Update 3: I have gained a tremendous appreciation for those involved with direct service to the homeless. It requires a lot of patience navigating day to day uncertainties and a great deal of resilience given how much the odds are stacked against low-income Americans. I am grateful for EJA providing me with the support to have this enriching experience.

Entry 4: I am thrilled to have completed an incredibly educational and fulfilling internship at the Homeless Advocacy Project. Not only did I learn about public interest law through the lens of direct service to those with the greatest needs, but I also became aware of systemic legal issues through the clients that I served. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct legal research and writing on some of the systemic issues towards the end of my internship and help clarify future paths for me to pursue. I am interested in the feedback loop between direct service and advocacy at a broader scale. The latter very much depends on insights gleaned from the former and the ability to listen intently to what clients endure. However, it is clear that the work we do must be scalable and address urgent societal needs - which why understanding advocacy at the systems level is so important. I am beyond grateful for EJA providing me with the support to make this summer a reality.