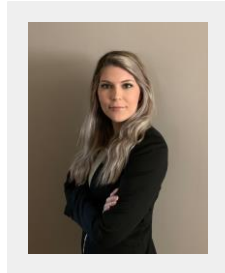




## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Taylor Hixon

**Law School:** John Marshall

**Organization:** Equip for Equality

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### Update 1:

This week I began a legal internship with Equip For Equality. EFE provides legal advocacy services in 3 departments: civil rights, abuse and neglect and other human rights violations, and special education. I am honored to begin working with an organization full of humans that promotes self-advocacy and serves as a legal advocate for people with disabilities as well as handles individual cases and systems-change litigation to achieve broad based societal reforms. Their work provides essential assistance to the community of people with disabilities.

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### Update 2:

Over the last few weeks, I have started working on a research assignment compiling statistics regarding the school to prison pipeline. Throughout my 9 years as an educator, I've had a growing interest in fighting the inequities within the education system, and the disparate impact that students of color face. I was unsure how to connect education and juvenile justice reform, and Equip For Equality has been an incredible blessing to help me experience this specific advocacy in action. It has been incredible to start working on something I've had as an idea for years, and truly digging into the intersectionality between education, disability and court involved youth. The advocacy that Equip For Equality provides for communities in Illinois is amazing, and I feel so blessed to be a part of this organization this summer.

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### Update 3:

This week I was able to attend an IEP meeting with Equip For Equality where they were supporting a young girl and parents in advocating to make sure the student received appropriate supports at school to help her succeed. It was a great opportunity to experience an IEP meeting from the side of the parent/advocate and not the school or district. The work that EFE does to help families and students is incredible making sure the students are getting the education they deserve and are entitled to, but doesn't always happen. Please consider donating to ensure future law students can continue to put their dreams and ambitions into action through organizations that make a difference.