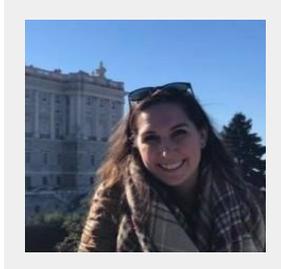




Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Hannah E. Cholewinski

Law School: Loyola University Chicago

Organization: Legal Aid Chicago

Update 1: The summer is moving quickly, and with the end of June comes my first EJA Fellow Update!

I was lucky enough to be selected as a recipient of summer funding from Equal Justice America to continue my work as an intern at Legal Aid Chicago in the Children & Families Practice Group. My supervisors have offered me a variety of experiences from my first day back at work, ranging from drafting motions for publication to my very first status hearing as a 711 student just this morning! I feel so incredibly lucky to be working for Legal Aid Chicago as an EJA Fellow, where I can pursue my passion of providing equitable, holistic legal services to those who need them most. Many thanks to Loyola University Chicago School of Law as well for creating such a fantastic alumni network- I get to work with a ChildLaw alum this summer, which just adds to an already fantastic experience!

I'm so excited for my next couple months with Legal Aid Chicago and EJA, and am looking forward to the learning opportunities to come!

Update 2: Already the beginning of July and time for another EJA Fellow Update!

The last couple weeks since my first update have been filled with more court dates, new learning opportunities, and some great assignments! My newest assignment is definitely the most interesting so far, and requires me to draft a Motion to Reconsider for a case Legal Aid Chicago recently worked on. When I first started my summer work, one of my goals was to write on an appeal of some sort. Although not a formal appeal, a Motion to Reconsider has many of the same functions and mechanics. It's a fantastic opportunity to apply the skills I learned during my Advocacy Legal Writing course at Loyola University Chicago School of Law this past fall semester, and most importantly it's a chance to ensure that our clients are being appropriately and justly served by the court system.

Update 3: Already time for another EJA Fellow Update!

These last few weeks have seen a lot of writing assignments and court room prep at Legal Aid Chicago. I had my



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first instance of "I have no clue what I'm doing" in the court room, followed by a really fantastic intake appointment where I connected very deeply with our client, and have been able to work closely with the assigned staff attorney on her current order of protection case. While it's been a very challenging couple weeks, I also think that working through the challenges have been incredible experiences which will push me to become a better lawyer.

Loyola University Chicago School of Law has been a hugely important part of molding me into an intern that can "roll with the punches" so to speak, and I'm incredibly thankful for the wonderful professors who have prepared me to go from one very challenging court date to an equally challenging intake with a clear mind. My summer so far has been full of moments where I realize just how lucky I am to be apart of such a wonderful school. It makes me so excited to spend my final year of school as a Loyola Rambler.

Entry 4: I'm already in my final week of my internship with Legal Aid Chicago, which means it is time for my final EJA Fellow Update!

The summer has been an incredible learning opportunity, and allowed me to venture outside my comfort and participate in a more litigation-focused environment than I've previously experienced. I started off extremely nervous- and made many gaffs along the way!- but ultimately was able to arrive at a space where I feel comfortable with the process and flows of the virtual court room. The most exciting part of this summer actually came in the form of an Emergency Order of Protection hearing, where I served as the primary advocate. It was one of the most nerve-wracking parts of my summer, but also the first case where I've really loved my time in court. Speaking to the judge to convince her of the level of emergency my client faced was the first time I felt like I really had a hand in directly impacting someone's life, and I actually really enjoyed the hectic nature leading up to the hearing- it kept me busy, engaged, and learning every step of the way! I'm excited to spend my next semester with Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Civitas ChildLaw Center, improving on this skill set.

What I'll miss most about my work with Legal Aid Chicago is the people, both my clients and those I work with. I've had a wonderful experience with the clients this summer, and feel lucky to have been trusted with their stories. My supervisors were also absolutely fantastic, and I learned so much both by watching them and having them review my work. Legal Aid Chicago was the best choice for me this summer for many reasons, but in particular, because of the people.

My experience this summer with Legal Aid Chicago was made possible by generous donations from people like you. If you have the means, please consider donating to EJA so that they may continue their work of providing legal assistance for those in need.