



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Jennifer Yang

**Law School:** The University of Chicago

**Organization:** Mandel Legal Aid Clinic — Civil Rights & Police Accountability Project

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### Update 1:

This Tuesday, I started my role at the Mandel Legal Aid Civil Rights & Police Accountability Project as an Equal Justice America Fellow. This week we focused on catching up on background reading for the clinic's current projects, took notes on and analyzed a deposition for our client's police brutality suit, and attended a public hearing on a community-driven police accountability ordinance. We also touched base on a case we're working on together with the Juvenile Justice Clinic. I feel very privileged to be able to learn from my coworkers and am grateful to EJA for providing financial support for this. It is incredible to see the passion, brilliance, and drive of organizers and activists who have been working for police accountability in Chicago for decades, and I am humbled to join their cause as a legal intern.

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### Update 2:

Since the last update, the clinic has been busy with multiple cases. We were happy to hear that one of our client's cases is potentially going to settle; however, we're still busy working on legal research for an underlying constitutional law question regarding police lying to folks in custody, as well as analyzing the deposition of one of the opposing side's witnesses. We are also preparing mitigation videos and files for a client currently in pre-trial detention and partnering with the school's Juvenile Justice Clinic to help gather information and get to know our client better. I am grateful for the help EJA has given me and my co-interns to conduct this important work while also learning from excellent lawyers and mentors. This internship is a unique privilege, and I hope more and more students will be able to do legal aid work with the help of grants and fellowships.



### **Update 3:**

This week, my co-intern and I finished a memo analyzing the deposition of a defendant in one of our cases. We are now focusing on our respective research projects — mine is analyzing the constitutional law around police deception in custodial interrogations, and the likelihood of success for our client's argument that his confession was involuntary. I feel very fortunate to be learning from others who have committed their lives to doing this work and hope I can contribute in a small way through my internship work as well.

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### **Entry 4:**

This week, we met with journalists and organizers at the Invisible Institute, which has been partnering with the Clinic over the years on youth outreach work in the community. Consistent and meaningful relationships with youth in the community inform every aspect of the Clinic's work, and the current challenge is figuring out how to adapt to the challenging obstacles presented by the pandemic.

My co-intern testified in front of City Council about the Anjanette Young Ordinance, a proposal to heighten standards for home raids to prevent the indignities suffered by victims of wrong raids in Chicago. We also continued our research and writing on constitutional law regarding interrogations, state courts' standards on standing for seeking injunctive relief, and data regarding encounters with police leading to fatal force.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to work alongside Craig, Stella, and community organizers and leaders, and am looking forward to continuing this work with them in the fall.