



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Arjun Parikh

**Law School:** University of Michigan Law School

**Organization:** Family Law Project

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### Update 1:

Hello friends! I've been spending my summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow with the Family Law Project (FLP) in Ypsilanti, MI. FLP provides free legal services to low-income domestic violence survivors in Washtenaw County. As a FLP law clerk, I draft pleadings, motions, and discovery responses for family law matters including divorce, child custody, and personal protection order proceedings. I also conduct legal needs assessments for domestic violence survivors to determine what services FLP can provide. And (!) I just appeared in court for the first time for a personal protection order hearing! I have already learned so much from the FLP attorneys and I love working with our clients—I'm excited to see what the rest of the summer brings.

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### Update 2:

Time for a second update. I recently completed my 8th week with the Family Law Project. I have had a significant amount of client interaction over the last few weeks and gained experience working on complicated divorce cases. I am also preparing for my second court appearance of the summer next week. Finally, I've been working on a memo about sanctions in family law cases in Michigan courts, which I hope will help the FLP going forward.

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### Entry 4:

I wrapped up my time with the Family Law Project last week. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity and know that I will draw from my experiences here as an attorney for a long while.

In my final weeks, I worked on a response for a case at an appellate court, helped a client with an eviction case, and assisted with a complex discovery issue for a divorce case. Over the course of the summer, I was able to work



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on a wide range of litigation-adjacent activities. I gained significant experience working with clients and was able to appear in court multiple times. Finally, I was lucky enough to learn from several kind, talented, service-minded attorneys that I will lean on mentors as I develop as an attorney.

I am confident that I will continue to find ways to work with domestic violence survivors throughout my career as an attorney. The work is difficult but crucial and rewarding, and I can't say enough about the wonderful survivors we get to serve. A massive thank you to Equal Justice America for making my work this summer possible. If you want to support EJA's mission of putting law students and lawyers to work for legal aid programs across the country, please consider donating.