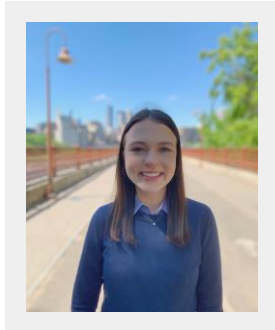




## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Sydney Goggins

**Law School:** University of Minnesota

**Organization:** Restore Justice

---

**Update 1:** This summer I am working as an intern at Restore Justice in Chicago, Illinois. I have been conducting legal research on resentencing for individuals who committed their offense as minors and were sentenced to life in prison without parole. Currently, around 2,000 people are serving sentences of 40 or more years in Illinois for things they were convicted of as children. Restore Justice works to deliver justice to these individuals and make systemic change. I could not do this work without Equal Justice America and the opportunity they provide law students to participate in public interest work!

---

**Update 2:** Restore Justice engages in direct legislative advocacy at the state level. Anyone can participate and help amplify Restore Justice's work! For example, you can use this link: <https://lnkd.in/gvUwaty> to help abolish life without parole sentences for children and young adults in Illinois. HB 1821 would prohibit life without parole, not life sentences, for individuals under 21 when they were convicted.

---

**Update 3:** Check out the Restore Justice July newsletter which is sent to incarcerated individuals, their families, and other stakeholders. As part of my work, myself and an attorney crafted the Litigation Update. We summarized state and federal litigation that impacts incarcerated individuals who were sentenced as juveniles. Other information in the newsletter updates folks on relevant policy updates, common questions from incarcerated individuals and their loved ones, and introductions to our team members.

---

**Entry 4:** This is my last week at Restore Justice for the summer, but I am thrilled to announce I will come back in September and staying with the organization through December. Over the course of my summer, I wrote a piece on relevant case law for incarcerated individuals, families, and stakeholders, created a brochure explaining accountability and felony murder for incarcerated women, and engaged with the community. My biggest project has been conducting research in preparation for a legislative Resentencing Task Force that will study how to reduce the Illinois prison population through releasing incarcerated individuals. I can't wait to continue this important work in just a few short weeks.