



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Benjamin "Caleb" Thompson

Law School: University of Richmond

Organization: Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.

Update 1: As many of you may know, I've had the honor of serving my home community at my first University of Richmond School of Law internship with Blue Ridge Legal Services in Harrisonburg this summer. To help me fund this experience and enrich my time working in legal aid, Equal Justice America has granted me a fellowship with them for this summer. So far, I've learned a ton about housing law, family law, bankruptcy law, public benefits, and all sorts of other fields of poverty law.

Update 2: I've moved on to working primarily in housing law, and I've learned a lot about what legal aid attorneys can do to help those who are facing eviction. This is really important work as COVID-related eviction protections are being lifted. Starting this week, several protections will be lifted, and thus legal aid services will likely be in extremely high demand.

Update 3: I've continued my summer helping clients ensure they have funds to remain in their homes through Virginia's Rent Relief Program. I've also done much to prepare for the end of the nationwide eviction moratorium comes to an end. Among these preparations are drafting sample motions to dismiss for eviction cases, researching different deadlines for when state and federal COVID renter protections end, and attending different eviction task force meetings with other legal aid organizations and nonprofits around the state.

Entry 4: This is my final Equal Justice America update regarding my employment with Blue Ridge Legal Services this past summer. To all those who have donated and/or taken the time to read my posts, thank you so much!!! I had a great summer and learned a ton about all areas of public service law, especially housing law. Again, thanks to all of you! The support has meant so much.