



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Rebecca Liu

Law School: UC Hastings

Organization: Legal Assistance for Seniors

Update 1:

I am very fortunate to have been chosen as an Equal Justice America Summer Fellow! Public interest and service work is something that I am passionate about. I did not want to be someone who just complained about the inequities in society and the shortcomings of our justice system. I wanted to be someone who was serious about taking steps, no matter how small, to implement positive change.

This summer, I am continuing my public service journey at Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS). Through education and advocacy, LAS works to ensure the independence and dignity of the elder community through direct legal service. I was drawn to LAS because now more than ever, senior rights are at the forefront of society. With the impacts of COVID-19 and the rise in hate crimes that disproportionately target the elder Asian community, seniors are in critical need of advocacy, support, and recognition. I cannot think of a better time to learn about elder law and to help the senior community. Being a part of an organization that seeks to provide relief and counsel to those who desperately need it has filled me with an invigorating sense of purpose and hope.

Update 2:

As the health law and public benefits intern, I have seen firsthand the inequalities faced by the elder community in both the healthcare and public benefits programs. Currently, I am working on an appeal for an elderly woman battling Lyme disease. Her only source of income is her SSI benefits. With a recent notice of termination of these benefits, she is scared and unsure of her future. Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) is fighting to correct this mistake and to ensure her independence and stability.

I am grateful for LAS for exposing me to a new area of law. I am learning so much about the shortcomings of our health care system and the inaccessibility of the public benefits program. Assisting seniors as they face adversity and working to remedy their struggles has filled me with an invigorating sense of purpose.



Update 3:

As a summer law clerk, not only am I providing direct legal aid services, but I am also developing my legal research and writing skills. For example, I have conducted research about issues that can arise from multiple social security numbers and explored Medicare policy manuals to determine if a denial of coverage was correct. I am very grateful for the opportunity to use the skills I learned in my first year of law school to actually effectuate positive change in the lives of the individuals I encounter at LAS.

Entry 4:

This is my last EJA Fellow Update after completing my 1L summer placement with Legal Assistance for Seniors. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such an amazing organization. I am inspired by the dedication of LAS staff and attorneys who work tirelessly to help seniors in Alameda County. I look forward to taking everything I have learned and the skills I have developed into the next chapter of my legal career.

Thank you, Legal Assistance for Seniors and thank you Equal Justice America!