



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



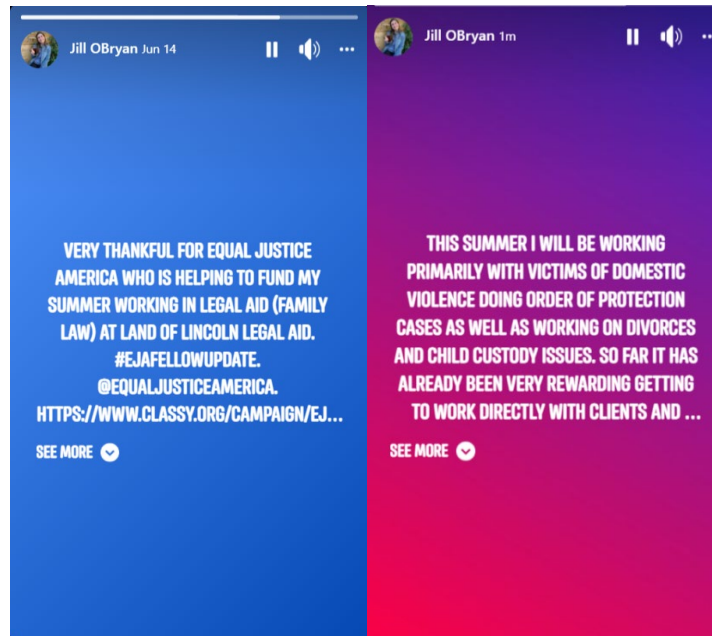
**Name:** Jill O'Bryan

**Law School:** Washington University School of Law in St. Louis

**Organization:** Land of Lincoln Legal Aid

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**Update 1:** Very Thankful for Equal Justice America who is helping to fund my summer working in Legal Aid (Family Law) at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid #EJAFellowUpdate @EqualJusticeAmerica [link].



This summer I will be working primarily with victims of domestic violence doing order of protection cases as well as working on divorces and child custody issues. So far it has already been very rewarding getting to work directly with clients and assisting them with their legal issues.

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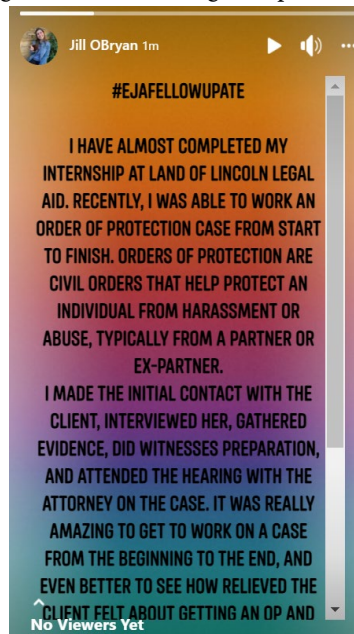
**Update 2:** I feel lucky to have been selected as one of this summer's Equal Justice America Fellows. After my first year of law school at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis I am spending my summer interning with Land of Lincoln Legal Aid. Land of Lincoln provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals and senior citizens in 65 counties in central and southern Illinois. Our office assists clients with a



variety of civil legal matters, and I am working primarily in family law. It has been incredibly rewarding to be doing hands on legal work and assisting clients. During the first half of my internship, I have been able to attend hearings with my supervisor, draft divorce petitions and orders of protection, do case research on a variety of matters related to marital property and child custody, and conduct a lot of the day-to-day client communication. I am looking forward to the second half of my internship!

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**Update 3:** I have almost completed my internship at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid. Recently, I was able to work an Order of Protection case from start to finish. Orders of Protection are civil orders that help protect an individual from harassment or abuse, typically from a partner or ex-partner. I made the initial contact with the client, interviewed her, gathered evidence, did witnesses preparation, and attended the hearing with the attorney on the case. It was really amazing to get to work on a case from the beginning to the end, and even better to see how relieved the client felt about getting an OP and having that peace of mind moving forward.



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**Entry 4:** I have completed my summer internship at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid. While I learned a lot about how to execute various family law matters, I also learned a lot about our clients and their experiences. The communication and listening skills I gained over the course of the summer have been just as valuable if not more valuable than the concrete legal skills. Clients frequently have had to jump through many hoops and cut through a lot of red tape in multiple systems before just getting someone on the phone to listen. Oftentimes clients have not had anyone listen to them and their story before they speak with someone at our office. *Everyone* deserves access to legal advice and an attorney, regardless of their income level- working in legal aid this summer made that even more apparent. I hope to continue working in civil legal aid going forward and am thankful for EJA assisting in funding my summer.