



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Julia Metzger

Law School: Washington University in St. Louis

Organization: Advocates for Justice

Update 1:

In my first few weeks at Advocates for Justice, I have already been involved in client intake, client communication, and have been exposed to the claims involving the FLSA, RICO, union organizing, Title VII, and a host of claims under the practice areas of employment and labor law. It is both an exciting and challenging feat to be creatively researching and writing how everyday individuals can seek reparations and justice from wrongdoings that specifically occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, as there is no case precedent or common law to follow on how to remedy the effects of a global pandemic. I am looking forward to continuing to work with the EJA team and with the amazingly dedicated and brilliant Advocates for Justice interns, attorneys, and legal team to continue this work for the New York City community.

Update 2:

I am in my fourth week at Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys, and I have since been working specifically on cases related to hostile work environments unique to the COVID-19 pandemic. I recently got to participate in the preparation for a deposition with my supervising attorney in which I got to draft questions and review documents for the specific individual we were deposing. I also recently got to interview one of our clients who is filing both a quid pro quo sexual harassment claim and an ADA claim against her employer, which has been my first experience in interviewing a client for a civil matter. I am excited to continue to work closely with the New York City community while living in New York City, and I have loved the environment and the city in which I am living while I am providing civil legal services to those clients who could not otherwise afford representation against their (sometimes very large and well-known) employers. I am very grateful for the support from EJA to make living in New York City while pursuing this legal work possible.



Update 3:

In my final weeks at Advocates for Justice, I have become more involved in my caseload that has been assigned to me since the beginning of the summer. I was actually able to meet many of my clients in person as we have had to meet with them to review documents or to discuss concerns with their cases. To be able to meet with clients face-to-face after a year and a half of remote law school education was a fantastic reminder of how much I value the "counselor" objective of becoming a lawyer. Hearing from clients about their New York City experiences and lives has better informed how I want to practice law in New York City as a new attorney after graduation--staying connected with the energy and desires of the clientele I have served was a priority for my summer internship this year, and being in person to do so would not have been possible without EJA and their support.

Entry 4:

During my last weeks at EJA, I was able to do a deep reflection on the work that I had accomplished in what felt like a very short amount of time. To have had the ability to work on a breadth of cases that have touched on long-standing and new areas of the law regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing aftermath is something that I feel is completely unique to the A4J office in being able to assist a smaller group of attorneys who are working towards impact litigation for large groups of New Yorkers when such representation would not be available or affordable otherwise. To have been able to join an office for my 2L summer that prides itself on client-centered advocacy has invigorated my passion for such work, and I could not be more grateful to Advocates for Justice or to Equal Justice America for making this summer such a professionally and personally fulfilling experience.