



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Gabby Bohannon

Law School: William & Mary Law School

Organization: Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

Update 1:

I am excited to share that I will be spending my 2L summer as an Equal Justice America fellow at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. CVLAS provides free legal assistance to low-income people in civil cases and preventive legal education to our communities. Since 1971, CVLAS has defended the rights of those who can't defend themselves.

Since beginning my internship at CVLAS, I have mainly worked on unemployment compensation and employment discrimination claims. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, more Virginians than ever are facing extreme delays in receiving unemployment benefits. CVLAS helps our clients navigate these extremely stressful situations every single day.

While work like this is important, it is also severely underfunded. To encourage law students to provide civil legal services to low-income clients, Equal Justice America raises money to fund internships. My summer internship was made possible by EJA funding.

Update 2:

As an Equal Justice America fellow, I have to share regular updates on my work this summer at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. I am officially a month into my time with this organization, and I could not be more excited about the work I'm doing. I am currently working on multiple appeals for unemployment compensation claims and helping clients with employment discrimination and eviction cases. I am so fortunate to be gaining this type of hands-on experience that really makes a difference in the lives of our clients.



Update 3:

My time at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society as an Equal Justice America Fellow is moving so quickly! I have just completed my seventh week with CVLAS and continue to be impressed by the work I see everyone in our office completing day to day. I am so lucky to get to learn from those within this organization, while also getting to help those who are most underserved by our legal system.

Entry 4:

It's my last day at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society! As I reflect on my summer with this organization, I am so grateful to have had the chance to work with amazing clients while learning more about the legal field and building the skills necessary to successfully practice. I am very blessed to be taking these lessons with me into my final year at William & Mary Law School and my future legal career.

I am so thankful for the opportunities I've had this summer, and it was entirely made possible by Equal Justice America. I encourage everyone to consider donating to EJA so that students like me have access to funding for internships that provide legal services to low-income clients.