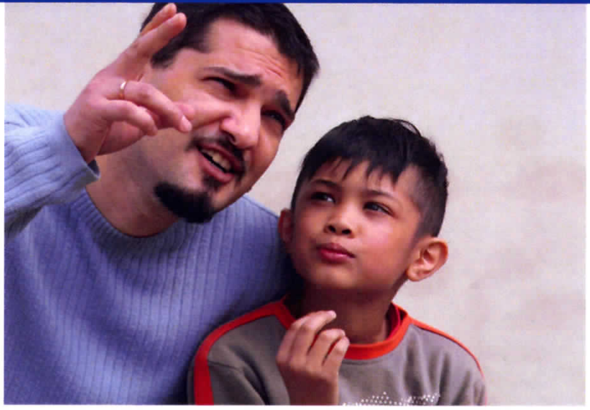
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2011-2012



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

www.equaljusticeamerica.org

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ANNUAL REPORT—FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

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EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Since 1993—working to protect children and families in need

The promise of equal justice is the promise of America. "With liberty and justice for all," are the words recited every day by our nation's school children. It is a promise that has not been kept. The American Bar Association estimates that the United States fails to meet 80% of the civil legal needs of the poor. Unlike criminal defendants who are guaranteed an attorney under the U.S. Constitution, most low-income litigants must face adversarial proceedings without the benefit of counsel.

80% of the legal needs of the poor are not being met.
–American Bar Association

As a result, women and children victimized by domestic violence do not get the legal help they desperately need. Families are wrongfully evicted and forced into homelessness. The elderly and poor have no recourse when they fall prey to scams in the marketplace. The disabled are discriminated against without the representation they need to protect their rights. Bureaucratic abuse and neglect go without remedy, often causing families to lose life-sustaining benefits. There can be no justice for those forced to face these struggles without the help of an attorney.

Who We Are

Equal Justice America is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1993. EJA has become a national leader in providing opportunities for law students to work with organizations that deliver civil legal services to the poor. Our efforts expose a new generation of future lawyers to the urgency of pro bono assistance to those in need. Students at more than 70 law schools now have the opportunity to take part in the Equal Justice America Fellowship Program.

What We've Done

- **Equal Justice America has sponsored fellowships for nearly 3,000 law students to work with over 400 legal services organizations across the country. Interning under the supervision of experienced attorneys, our fellowship recipients have provided crucial assistance to low-income clients struggling through the complexities of our civil justice system.**

- **EJA has paid out more than $8.5 million in grants and has provided approximately 950,000 hours of free legal services with programs that work to protect the rights of the poor.**

- **In September 2002, we began funding two-year post-graduate EJA Fellowships, launching the public interest careers of outstanding young attorneys. More than $1 million has been committed to these post-graduate fellowships.**

- **In September 2000, Pace University Law School established the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic with a major grant and an ongoing commitment from EJA. We have contributed more than $500,000 to the EJA Clinic, which has become an integral part of the Law School's highly regarded clinical program.**

What They're Saying About Equal Justice America...

"There is always a need for Virginia law students who can help reduce the legal services gap for the poor and disadvantaged. By supporting Equal Justice America, Virginians provide opportunities for future lawyers to be exposed to public interest law and to serve our most vulnerable citizens. Many students will launch careers in public interest law and become more aware of their obligation to assist those in need. I congratulate Equal Justice America."

– Timothy M. Kaine
U.S. Senator, Virginia

"EJA supports legal services for those in need by raising funds for fellowships that expose law students to the challenges and rewards of legal services work. Through EJA fellowships, law students learn by example, gaining real world experience by helping actual clients and learning basic public interest lawyering skills. Even small donations can inspire budding lawyers to devote years - and in some cases, careers - to serving the needy and the public interest."

– Harold Hongju Koh
Legal Advisor
U.S. State Department

"It is with great pleasure and even greater gratitude that I write to congratulate you on the 20th Anniversary of Equal Justice America. Our ability to avoid the most draconian reductions in services can be largely attributable to the contribution made by a corps of highly motivated and dedicated law student interns. The overwhelming majority of these wonderful and indispensable young law students has been financed by EJA. We need EJA more than ever before and the need is nothing less than urgent."

– Martin S. Needelman
Project Director
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. A.

"While a 20th anniversary is a significant milestone for any non-profit, I'm especially gratified to see EJA's growth—both because your mission is so aligned with our organizational interests and because of the collaborative and flexible interactions we've always enjoyed with EJA. I still remember our conversations about the program when you were first developing the idea. It's amazing to see the growth of EJA from a concept to a real program providing public interest law placements for nearly 300 students a year."

– Robert Gillett
Executive Director
Legal Services of South Central Michigan

"On behalf of the staff, Board and most importantly the clients of Public Counsel, I wanted to congratulate Equal Justice America (EJA) on its 20th Anniversary and thank you for all you have done to advance equal justice in our community."

– Hernán D. Vera
President / CEO
Public Counsel Law Center

Nicole Dooley Post-Graduate Fellowship Report

Equal Justice America
Post-Graduate Fellowship Report
August 31, 2012

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II. Summary and Achievements (2-3 pages)

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to use a variety of strategies to advocate for improved educational services for low-income youth in the Petersburg area. In the last year, I have continued to represent individual families, expanded my community organizing work, and contributed to several state-level policy projects.

Petersburg children continue to face significant educational challenges. At the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, according to Petersburg City Public Schools' computer-based reading assessment and teaching program, only 21% of kindergartners, 8% of first-graders, 17% of second-graders, and 23% of third-graders were reading at grade level. Two of the elementary schools, the middle school, and the junior high school are all working with external Lead Turnaround Partners (LTPs), brought in after the schools consistently failed to make adequately yearly progress under No Child Left Behind.

Since beginning my fellowship in September 2010, I have helped more than 45 youth improve their educational opportunities. The total estimated value of the services I helped families obtain exceeds $12,700 monthly. These services include school-based special education evaluations and independent evaluations, supplemental services to meet special education needs, compensatory services after a school wrongly deprived students of their education, placement changes, and reenrollment in school.

In addition to providing individual advocacy in the Petersburg area, I continued to assist with state-wide projects. In my first year, JustChildren had contacted the State Department of Education to discuss their decision to limit parents' use of the state complaint system. After this avenue stalled, we contacted the federal Department of Education to draw their attention to the issue. It is currently under review by the Monitoring and State Improvement Planning Division of the Office of Special Education Programs.

I also continued to strengthen community voices through organizing activities and trainings. I provided trainings to members of Petersburg's preschool PTA during both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years, where meetings were attended by up to 200 parents. In the last year, I trained more than 120 local juvenile probation personnel, department of social services staff, and other service providers on students' and families' educational rights. I also provided multiple sessions to Petersburg youth, speaking at the middle school, junior high, and high school about fourth amendment rights, youth organizing, and the rights children gain when they turn 18.

After the departure of our community organizer in September 2011, I took on the majority of the community organizing responsibilities. I am currently leading the planning for a Pre-K Summit LAJC is hosting in October 2012, designed to bring together service providers, decision makers, and community members who are invested in the education of our youngest children to explore a regional approach in the provision of pre-k education.

The Legal Aid Justice Center has provided extensive support for my project. I have worked closely with my managing attorney in Petersburg, Sylvia Jones, who has provided day-to-day guidance and support for my case work and community activities. Angela Ciolfi, the JustChildren legal director, provided support and guidance for my case work and larger policy projects. I was able to attend a number of trainings to enhance my skills, including trial advocacy, Guardian Ad Litem training, and several statewide legal aid conferences.

After my fellowship ends in September 2012, I will stay on at LAJC and continue to advocate for these families and others. I look forward to continuing my on-the-ground educational advocacy, expanding my work on larger-scale litigation, and exploring other areas of civil legal aid that are covered by the Legal Aid Justice Center.

III. Poignant Stories (1-3 pages)

In the past year, I have continued to help increase access to educational services for children in the Petersburg area.

In my last report, I described my work with a then-ninth grader who was reading and writing at a second grade level, but had never been provided with any special reading or writing instruction. He had been placed at the alternative school in the fall of 2010 based upon his record from a previous school district, and was soon expelled from that placement. At the end of the expulsion, in January 2012, the student was readmitted to the public high school. Despite performing very well while receiving home-based services, and continuing to exhibit above-average math skills, the school had placed the student on a modified diploma track (with lower standards and requirements than a standard diploma), and strongly discouraged him from enrolling in algebra because the modified track was "good enough" and they did not want to "set [the student] up for failure." I worked with the family to demand higher expectations, so that the school put the student back on track for a standard diploma. In addition, in February 2012, the school district began providing the student with three hours per week of evidence-based one-on-one supplemental reading instruction.

Another family requested help for their 12-year-old son who had been diagnosed with ADHD and bipolar disorder, and was experiencing serious bullying at school. His disability caused him to have significant difficulties in coping with the confrontations arising with the bullies, so that he would strike out physically and verbally. Despite abundant evidence of a disability that affected his education, the school only provided an ineffective 504 plan and repeatedly suspended the student, eventually placing him on home-based instruction in December 2011. I helped the family request a special education evaluation, and the student was found eligible as a student with an emotional disability and an other health impairment in February 2012. He was placed back in the public school setting at that time.

In addition to helping the student with his special education services and placement, I also helped the family qualify for Supplemental Security Income based on the student's disability by representing them at the Social Security hearing before an administrative law judge. The additional income of $525 per month, along with the $11,000 back payment, will help the student have access to additional services and supports he will need outside of school.

Delays in identification and evaluation unfortunately occur frequently. I represented a fourteen-year-old who had been diagnosed with severe depression and often appeared withdrawn at school, choosing not to interact with staff or peers. Instead of evaluating whether the student may need additional services to address his depression, the school repeatedly disciplined him and referred him to the criminal justice system. The student was charged with assault for throwing a cracker at a teacher, and was charged with kidnapping and robbery for helping two other students take a piece of gum from a fourth student. The student was expelled, and placed in the district's alternative school. After I intervened, the district evaluated the student for a disability and found him eligible for special education services.

These stories highlight some of the successes I hope to achieve with several clients who contacted our office this summer. One is a rising first-grader with ADHD who faced significant difficulties in kindergarten. The student's disruptive behavior at school caused him to miss 89 school days, mainly as a result of repeated suspensions. The mother requested a special education evaluation multiple times over the course of the school year, but the school never evaluated him. I have submitted another written request for evaluation, and one is now scheduled for August 2012. I will continue to work with the family through the eligibility process, helping to ensure that the school provides appropriate services.

Another client will be beginning middle school next month. As a student with autism, he needs to learn in a small, supportive setting. His mother is concerned about the middle school, as the classes are larger and bullying is more widespread. I facilitated a meeting between the parent, the school principal, and the assistant principal, who addressed some of the parent's concerns. I will continue to help the parent monitor her child's education to ensure he is receiving appropriate services that will allow him to progress in the general curriculum.

A third student was placed at the alternative school in Petersburg due to multiple instances of fighting during the 2011-2012 school year, his first year at the middle school. Before entering middle school, he never exhibited any behavioral problems, suggesting that the middle school environment itself contributed to poor student behavior. I am working with the family to appeal the student's placement at the alternative school.

IV. Success Stories (1-3 pages or more)

Since my last report, I have helped a number of students improve their educational services. This summer, I worked with a family trying to secure an appropriate placement for their rising first-grader. Much like the student described above, this student was suspended multiple times during his kindergarten year for his behavior. Before contacting us, the family worked with the school to have the child evaluated for special education services, and he was found eligible. However, he remained in a general education classroom, where the teacher was unable to handle the behaviors caused by his disability. As a result, the student was placed on home-based instruction in May 2012. The family contacted us when the school district offered a private special education day school as the only possible placement for him for the 2012-2013 school year. We helped the family work with the school district to identify a wider range of placement options for the student, and everyone agreed to place the student in a self-contained classroom with a one-on-one aide in the public school setting.

A mother of two high-school age boys came to our office for help with both children. Her fifteen-year old son, now a rising tenth grader, had been placed at a special education private day school that mainly served students with significant behavior problems. However, my client had never had discipline problems at his home school. In the fall of 2011, we worked with the parent to have the child moved to a homebound placement, so that he could avoid the negative influences that can arise at a placement for children with behavioral issues. This summer, we met again with the student's IEP team, who agreed that he should be placed at the public high school.

His older brother, now seventeen and entering the eleventh grade, was expelled from school at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Although he was a special education student, the school offered to provide only four hours per week of home-based instruction for the 2011-2012 school year. I helped the parent request a new placement and compensatory services, both of which the district agreed to provide. The student attended a private special education day school for the 2011-2012 school year, received compensatory services during the summer in 2011 and 2012, and will be attending the public high school for the upcoming school year, where he will be able to work toward his goal of joining the Air Force.

The grandmother of a fifteen-year-old rising tenth-grader came to our office halfway through the 2011-2012 school year because she believed her granddaughter had been wrongly denied special education services. Despite years of behavioral struggles, in which she failed all of her classes and was suspended repeatedly, the school failed to respond to the grandmother's September 2011 request for a special education evaluation until December, when the district began an evaluation. At the same time, the student was suspended from school, and spent the next two months at home with no educational services, during which time the parent contacted our office. I participated in the evaluation process, and the student was found eligible for special education services, admitted back into the junior high school, and provided with compensatory services for the time she spent at home.

Another client needed help with a disciplinary referral that his mother believed was too harsh. The junior high school student was expelled for bringing what appeared to be marijuana into the school building. After a lab analysis revealed that it was not marijuana, I was able to successfully petition the school board to reduce the expulsion to a long-term suspension. During my disciplinary advocacy, I noticed that the student had displayed inattentive, impulsive behavior since elementary school, suggesting he may qualify for special education services. I recently requested a special education evaluation on the family's behalf, which was approved by the school district. I will assist the family through the evaluation process.

I also advocated for students who were referred to the court system for misbehavior at school. I represented a child found to be in need of supervision for a failure to attend school. A Juvenile and Domestic Relations court ordered her to spend 50 days in detention, with 20 suspended, for being in contempt of two court orders to attend school. This order was in violation of the Virginia Code, which limits detention for a child in need of supervision for contempt of any court order to ten days, and that only after all other options are exhausted. After presenting my argument in this case, the court removed my client's suspended sentence, and began limiting its sentencing in all similar cases to ten days in detention per violation of a court order.

In addition to helping secure educational services, I began representing families seeking additional resources to address their children's disabilities. I have represented two families at SSI hearings, the one described above, and another five-year-old student who had ADHD so severe that one of his special education goals at school was to be able to sit for five minutes at a time. In both cases, the child was found to be disabled by the Social Security Administration and provided benefits, greatly increasing the family's financial means to procure appropriate services to address the disability.

V. Challenges (1-2 pages)

My primary challenges – client attitudes, resistance from school districts, and financial constraints – remain the same as in the first six months of my fellowship, but the way they present themselves and my response have evolved over the last year.

In my first year, the vast majority of my clients had been teenagers, many struggling with whether they wanted to attend school at all. Although most of my clients are still older, I am increasingly receiving calls from parents of younger children. As described above, I have two clients who just finished kindergarten, and both experienced serious disciplinary issues. The challenges presented by these younger clients and their parents differ significantly from the older clients. The younger children have not given up on the school experience, and they want to do well, but their disabilities inhibit them from responding appropriately to the school environment. The challenging client attitudes come here from the parents, rather than the child. Parents of younger children who have been so clearly disserved by the school district are often understandably upset, and unwilling to work with school personnel. My challenge comes in encouraging the parents to work together with the school district to the extent that it would improve the education provided to their children, but also properly assessing when cooperation is no longer helpful and a more adversarial approach, like filing a state complaint, would be appropriate.

The resistance I face from school districts has also changed over the past year. In my first few months, districts would contact their attorney every time I contacted them, making the response to my requests lengthier and more contentious. As school districts have become more familiar with me, their responses have changed. Two districts have chosen to work directly with me, without bringing in their attorney, resulting in friendlier, more productive meetings, and quicker positive outcomes for students. Other districts take a two-pronged approach. For obvious issues that are quick to resolve, the districts take immediate action after my first contact with them. For instance, if I request records for a student whose family has made several unmet requests for a special education evaluation, the district may begin the special education evaluation shortly after they receive my letter. For thornier issues, though, the districts contact their attorney, and we proceed from there. In those cases, the presence of their attorney is often helpful for identifying and resolving legal issues, but it does add to the length of the process. These latter districts, those that choose not to work directly with me, continue to exhibit somewhat adversarial attitudes, and it continues to be a challenge to work cooperatively with them.

Institutionally, the financial constraints I faced in the first six months of my fellowship continue. Both local school districts and legal aid offices continue to try to provide level services with fewer resources. I continue to work with a law firm that often takes on pro bono work for cases in which more extensive legal action is warranted. I also receive guidance from education attorneys at other nonprofit legal aid groups, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center.

A new challenge arose over the past year that is closely related to the financial constraints. Last fall, an attorney and our community organizer left the Petersburg office, reducing our staff to two attorneys and one office manager. With reduced staff, I became more selective in accepting casework and increased my time spend on community organizing projects. I continue to assess and update my various work responsibilities.

VI. Goals for the Next Six Months (1-2 pages)

As my fellowship draws to a close, I have successfully met the goals I set out to accomplish over the last two years. Through direct representation of clients on education matters, I have developed my advocacy skills. Through my work with our community organizer, and on my own after her departure, I have familiarized myself with the community, provided trainings for service providers, and increased the visibility of the services offered at Legal Aid. I have worked on a number of statewide policy projects, identifying problems that affect groups of students and their families, and working to resolve them.

After I complete my fellowship next month, I will continue to work on my evolving goals. I plan to reassess my individual case work so that it includes more potential for impact litigation. I will continue to provide a variety of services for eligible clients who need help with their education, ranging from advice to full representation, but I will concentrate on cases that fit into larger patterns I see arising in Petersburg. We are currently looking into the disciplinary treatment of students who receive special education services, and assessing how to proceed with legal action. In October, I will attend a national training on affirmative litigation, and will use that to shape more impactful education litigation.

I also plan to take a wider variety of cases. The Legal Aid Justice Center provides a range of civil legal services, relating to housing, unemployment, public benefit, elder care, and other areas of poverty law. I plan to gain experience in each of these areas. By representing a broader array of clients, I will be able to learn new legal and advocacy skills.

As the newly appointed Professional Development Coordinator for the Legal Aid Justice Center, I also plan to help other LAJC staff identify and acquire new skills. My responsibilities include leading a work group that will create Professional Development Plans for each job position at LAJC, and developing a fair and efficient method for screening staff requests for training. By serving as Professional Development Coordinator, I will be able to help all LAJC staff learn new skills, and simultaneously improve my management and organizational skills.

VII. Personal Experience (up to one page)

My fellowship has given me the opportunity to improve my legal skills, as well as my organizational and advocacy skills. In these first two years of practice, I have concentrated on representing individual youth and families who face a variety of education-related problems. Through this individual representation, I have learned to write effective demand letters, coach families how to advocate for themselves at IEP meetings and disciplinary hearings and advocate for them myself when appropriate, and pursue further legal action when working directly with school staff fails to result in improved educational services.

I have also gained some experience in the juvenile justice field, in my first year helping two serious juvenile offenders with their review hearings, and in my second year, successfully advocating for youth receiving time in detention for missing school. These experiences provided me with an opportunity to improve my brief-writing and trial advocacy skills.

My work within the community helped me develop my advocacy and training skills. I forged relationships with other service providers in the area and improved my ability to train others by leading sessions on youth educational rights. Through my session with students in Petersburg's secondary schools, I was able to further refine my trainings skills and get to know the community better.

VIII. Media (up to one page)

Media coverage was limited in the last year of my fellowship. The combination of underage clients and a concentration on individual advocacy lead to limited media coverage of my work. However, as my focus shifts more to impact work, media coverage will increase. As part of my community organizing work, I have helped community members draft and submit letters to local media outlets and community leaders.

IX. Orientation, Training, Supervision, Support (up to two pages)

[This section was completed by Sylvia Jones, Managing Attorney – Petersburg Office, (804) 862-2205.]

<u>Progress of the Fellow and Project</u>

Over the course of Nicole's two-year fellowship, she has met or exceeded all of our expectations for her, through her individual case work, community organizing, and larger policy projects. She continues to advocate passionately and effectively for her clients, winning numerous positive educational outcomes. Her good judgment, ability to work independently and with others, and her strong organizational skills are a great asset to JustChildren's long-term projects.

Her ability to take on additional community organizing responsibilities after the departure of our community organizer has been impressive. She has conducted trainings for service providers, parents, and students; monitored the Petersburg School Board; actively participated in local advocacy groups; and mentored a community group focused on improving Petersburg's education system.

LAJC's Performance in Supporting the Project and Its Goals, Orientation, Training, Supervision, Support

Nicole has received consistent supervision and support, both from myself and from Angela Ciolfi, the JustChildren Legal Director, over the course of her fellowship. I informally meet with Nicole daily to discuss her cases and provide advice and support. She has more formal biweekly conference calls with Angela and the rest of the JustChildren team, at which she can troubleshoot her cases, provide updates on her projects, and receive feedback and advice from all of the JustChildren staff. In the past year, she also attended the yearly Statewide Legal Aid Conference and quarterly education task force meetings, where she participated in CLEs to improve her legal and advocacy skills.

LAJC could improve its support by creating co-counseling relationships with experienced impact litigators on children's legal issues. We could also provide each attorney with an individualized professional development plan that maximizes the overlap between their individual professional goals and organizational needs. We will be looking to Nicole in the next year to help us develop a process for putting those plans into place for all LAJC staff.

Plans for Support in the Next Six Months

When Nicole finishes her fellowship, her workload will diversify. Although her concentration will remain on educational advocacy for at-risk youth, she will also begin to represent clients in other civil legal matters. I will provide direct supervision and support as Nicole gains more experience with housing, public benefits, and other civil cases.

LAJC is also providing Nicole with guidance in handling larger-scale litigation. She will attend an intensive affirmative action litigation training, hosted by the Poverty Law Center, in October. We will help her use the skills she gains there to craft litigation to address systemic education issues in the Petersburg area.

In addition, we chose Nicole to be the Professional Development Coordinator for LAJC. In that capacity, she will be able to improve her managerial and organization skills, with direct guidance from LAJC's executive director.

Equal Justice America
Law Student Fellowships

Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America
Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Law Student Fellowships
Fall 2011/Spring 2012

- Emily Bachman, Catholic University, Ayuda, Sterling, VA, Fall
- Andrea Carrillo, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services, Spring
- Fernando Colon, Chicago-Kent, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Spring
- Ashley Cousineau, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall
- Grace Crivello, Michigan State, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Spring
- Jacqueline Croteau, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services, Fall
- Holli Dobler, Chicago-Kent, Center for Economic Progress, Chicago, Spring
- Preston Dryer, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall/Spring
- Morgan Fletcher, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Spring
- Elizabeth Gaetani, Duquesne, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Pittsburgh, Spring
- Will Hanson, Boston College, Community Legal Aid, Worcester, MA, Fall
- Daniel Hochbaum, Loyola University Chicago, Equip for Equality, Spring
- Cindy Hong, American University, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, Washington, DC, Spring
- Alexander Hughes, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services, Spring
- Chanell Johnson, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Spring
- Marissa Johnson, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Spring
- Jennifer Kruidenier, Liberty University, Virginia Legal Aid Society, Lynchburg, VA, Spring
- La-Donna Lawrence, University of Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Pittsburgh, Spring
- Katherine Lazarow, New York Law School, Urban Justice Center, NYC, Spring
- Monica Maldonado, American University, Ayuda, Sterling, VA, Spring
- Meghan McCullen, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services, Spring
- Thomas Perry McCall, Villanova, Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia, Spring
- Andria Seo, NYU, Legal Aid Society (Juvenile Rights Practice), Brooklyn, NY, Spring
- Stanislav Skarbo, Cardozo School of Law, New York Legal Assistance Group, Spring
- Kishwer Vikaas, Temple University, Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, Spring
- Vanessa Williams, DePaul, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall

Law Student Fellowships
Summer 2012

- Randall Abbott, University of Michigan, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Kimberly Adams, Wayne State, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- Aezad Aftab, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Anabel Agloro, UCLA, Public Counsel
- Benjamin Aiken, University of Virginia, JustChildren (A Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center), Charlottesville, VA
- Kate Aizpuru, Harvard, Greater Boston Legal Services (Cambridge/Somerville Office)
- Sameera Ali, University of the District of Columbia, UDC-DCSL Immigration and Human Rights Clinic
- Kendra Amick, UC Hastings, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Jennifer Anderson, Columbia University, The Family Center, NY
- John Antia, John Marshall Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Alexis Applegate, Boston College, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Wade Askew, Georgetown University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Camille Bacon-Schulte, Cornell University, Alaska Legal Services
- Nour Bahrani, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Brent Barbour, Liberty University, Refugee Resettlement, Immigration and Interpreter Services of Roanoke
- Elizabeth Barnes, George Washington University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, Cambridge, MA
- Robert Barnett, Harvard, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Juneau
- Dwayne Barrs, William and Mary, Virginia Legal Aid Society, Suffolk, VA
- Lynn Bartkowiak, Wayne State, Lakeshore Legal Aid's Counsel and Advocacy Law Line, Southfield, MI
- Elise Benninghofen, Cardozo Law School, The Family Center
- Krishna Bhatt, George Mason University, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Elizabeth Booth, University of Pennsylvania, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Meghan Bowman, Cornell University, Community Legal Aid Society, Wilmington, DE
- Alexandra Bradshaw, Harvard, Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice, Brooklyn, NY
- Rachel Brown, DePaul University, Farmworker Legal Services (a subdivision of Legal Services of South Central Michigan), Kalamazoo, MI
- Sarah Bryant, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., Austin, TX
- Ben Buchwalter, UC Hastings, Homeless Advocacy Project, San Francisco, CA
- Angela Bunnell, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Alexander Buonocore, Columbia University, Resilience Advocacy Project
- Joseph Campbell, University of Michigan, Prairie State Legal Services, Bloomington, IL

- David Carlisle, Georgetown University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Michelle Carmon, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Julia Catania, Columbia University, Catholic Charities Community Services, NYC
- Caitlin Cavness, University of the District of Columbia, HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic
- Dorothy Chang, University of Michigan, Center for Race, Poverty & the Environment, San Francisco, CA
- Jaylum Chen, University of Virginia, Bay Area Legal Aid, San Jose, CA
- Veneeta Chintamaneni, University of Illinois, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Lisa Choi, Loyola Los Angeles, Public Counsel
- Anna Christensen, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, Loyola Legal Clinic (Center for Constitutional Rights), New Orleans, LA
- Emily Citkowski, University of the District of Columbia, Community Development Law Clinic, Washington, DC
- Andrea Clark, Rutgers University, Street Law Program at Rutgers Law (SELA), Newark, NJ
- Jess Cochrane, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Shlomit Cohen, NYU, Urban Justice Center, NYC
- Bryan Colombo, University of the District of Columbia, UDC-DCSL Housing and Consumer Law Clinic
- Alexandra Conlon, Boston University, Prisoners' Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Amanda Cottingham, Washington and Lee, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Richmond, VA
- James Craig, University of Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- Sara Craig, UC Hastings, Homeless Action Center, Oakland, CA
- Michael Decker, Harvard, National Center for Law and Economic Justice(9 weeks - NYC) and American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (4 weeks – Hartford, CT)
- Garret DeReus, Tulane Law School, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
- Adrian Diaz, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Namgiao Do, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Courtney Doak, Columbia University, Children's Rights, New York, NY
- Elizabeth Dobbins, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Maria Dominguez, UC Hastings, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Jennifer Douglas, Columbia University, Youth Represent
- Allison Dowling, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Pittsburgh, PA
- Kelly Dreher, NYU, Public Counsel
- Alex Dutton, Temple University, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Janette Ekanem, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Brent Eliason, University of Michigan, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Michael El-Zein, University of Michigan, Michigan Law's Human Trafficking Clinic
- Leah Engle, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Lansing, MI
- Ernesto Escobar, Emory University, Atlanta Legal Aid Society

- Mollie Esposito, Loyola Los Angeles, Public Counsel
- Adriana Estevez, Catholic University, Ayuda, Sterling, VA,
- Megan Evans, South Texas College of Law, Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Mikaela Evans –Aziz, Columbia University, Sanctuary for Families, NY
- Jennifer Feden, University of Pennsylvania, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- Catherine Feeley, Northwestern University, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, Harlingen, TX
- Ariana Fink, University of Michigan, Center for Family Representation, NYC
- Joseph Fiore, Boston College, Children's Rights, NYC
- Stephanie Fitzgerald, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Colin Fox, University of Richmond, Community Tax Law Project, Richmond, VA
- Emily Freeman, Harvard, New York Legal Assistance Group, NYC
- Melissa Friedman, Harvard, The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice, Bronx, NY
- Julia Funke, John Marshall Law School, Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project, Chicago, IL
- Erin Gaines, University of Texas, California Rural Legal Assistance, Salinas, CA
- Cynthia Galvez, Cornell University, California Rural Legal Assistance, Fresno, CA
- Amy Gellatly, American University, Employment Justice Center, Washington, DC
- Julie Gielowski, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Rebecca Glisan, Northwestern University, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (7 weeks) and Family Violence Prevention Services (8 weeks), San Antonio, TX
- Jacquelyn Godin, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Marisa Gold, University of Pennsylvania, The Door Legal Services Center, NYC
- Joseph Gonzalez, Columbia University, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Lydia Gottesfeld, American University, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- Stephanie Grajales, Columbia University, New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project (Legal Services NYC)
- Andrés Guerra, Fordham University, Legal Services NYC – Bronx
- Anita Gupta, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Nora Gustafson, Chicago-Kent, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Justine Haimi, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Caitlin Halpern, Harvard, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, NYC
- Elizabeth Hasse, Boston University, Kids In Need of Defense, Boston, MA
- Steven Hasty, Brooklyn Law School, The Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY
- Shana Heller, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Denise Hernandez, Texas Tech, Texas Civil Rights Project, Austin, TX
- Kathryn Hensley, Brooklyn Law School, Lawyer's For Children, NYC
- Cynthia Herrera, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Stephanie Herron, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kari Hicks, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services

- Alina Hoffman, Georgetown University, National Center for Law and Economic Justice, NYU
- Caroline Holmes, UCLA, Public Counsel
- Katrina Homel, Georgetown University, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Amanda Huggins, University of Richmond, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Richmond, VA
- Lauren Humphrey, Cornell University, Community Legal Aid Society, Wilmington, DE
- Deep Jodhka, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, National Employment Law Project, Berkeley, CA
- Chanell Johnson, Rutgers University, Nation Center for Law and Economic Justice, NYC
- Janell Johnson, University of Virginia, Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- Janet Jones-Duffey, Columbia University, Community Health Advocates, New York, NY
- Cristina Juarbe Santaliz, Temple University, Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Lindsey Kaley, Harvard, The Door, NYC
- Amanda Karl, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, Equal Rights Advocates, San Francisco, CA
- Aleksandr Katsnelson, Harvard, Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services (GBLS)
- Martha Katz, Georgetown University, Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Derek Kelley, University of Michigan, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Daniel Ketani, Columbia University, Campaign for Educational Equity, NY
- Jongwook ("Wookie") Kim, Harvard, Connecticut Legal Services, Bridgeport, CT
- Patricia Klanke, George Washington University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Martin Klein, Temple University, Working Hands Legal Clinic, Chicago
- Laura Knittle, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kevin Krainz, University of Pennsylvania, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL
- Katelyn Kramer, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jennifer Kye, University of Virginia, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- Zahra Lakhani, South Texas College of Law, Lone Star Legal Aid, Houston, TX
- Munishwar Lall, Rutgers University, Legal Services of New Jersey, Newark, NJ
- Katya Lancero, Suffolk University, Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Florence, AZ
- Ellen Lau, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jonathan Lautin, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Daniel Lawder, University of Michigan, Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, St. Louis, MO
- Yanira Lemus, Loyola Los Angeles, Public Counsel
- Nicholas Leonard, Wayne State, Michigan Children's Law Center, Southgate, MI
- Jason Lerner, Rutgers University, Philadelphia VIP
- Andrew Lewis, University of Pennsylvania, Penn Housing Rights Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Beile Lindner, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Family Defense Project

- Megan Lovett, Georgetown University, The Legal Aid Society of D.C.
- Francesse Lucius, University of Miami,Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL
- Margaret Lukshaitis, Wayne State, Family Law Project (a division of Legal Services of South Central Michigan), Ann Arbor, MI
- Michelle Luo, Columbia University, National Center for Law and Economic Justice
- Xiao Luo, University of Wisconsin, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Madison, WI
- Delilah Magão, Rutgers University, Street Law Program at Rutgers Law, Newark, NJ
- Maanda Makwarela, Drexel University, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- Joel Mallord, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Sarah Manley, University of Michigan, University of Michigan's General Clinic
- Lyndsey Marcelino, Cornell University, Legal Services for Children
- Rebecca Marlin, Fordham University, Safe Horizon, Brooklyn, NY
- Sarah Martin, University of Pittsburgh, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- William McElhiney, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Laredo, TX
- Elizabeth McIntyre, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kia McLeod, Harvard, Prison Legal Assistance Project, Cambridge, MA
- Bridgette McMahon, George Washington University, University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- Britney McPheron, University of Richmond, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Petersburg, VA
- Verónica Meléndez López, UC Hastings, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Caroline Merideth, University of Pennsylvania, Learning Rights Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Denise Miller, Santa Clara University, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA
- Tamima "Mima" Mohammed, University of Pennsylvania, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles, CA
- R. Brendan Mooney, Northwestern University, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., Portland, ME
- Tara Moriarty, University of Texas, Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Lizbeth Najera Munoz, Santa Clara University, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Patricia Muñoz, American University, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Ryan Murphy, UC Hastings, Public Interest Law Project, Oakland, CA
- Brittany Nash, University of Michigan, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Chicago, IL
- Dong Nguyen, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Elizabeth Noël, Georgetown University, Legal Services Center (The WilmerHale Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School), Jamaica Plain, MA
- C. Doris Okafor, Washington and Lee, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Yecenia Olmos, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Amorya Orr, University of Virginia, JustChildren (A Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center), Charlottesville, VA

- Anthony Ortega, Columbia University, The Legal Aid Society, NYC
- Courtney Oxsen, UC Hastings, Homeless Action Center, Berkeley, CA
- Justine Palacios, Tulane Law School, Loyola Legal Clinic, New Orleans
- Glenn Palaia, Boston College, Legal Assistance Bureau
- Ann Park, Loyola University Chicago, Voices for America's Children, Washington, DC
- Anna Park, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Family Defense Project
- Jullia Park, University of Chicago, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Dane Patterson, UC Hastings, Legal Aid of Marin, San Rafael, CA
- Daniel Payan, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Jessica Pedraza, Boston University, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL
- Olga Peshko, Columbia University, Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services (Legal Services NYC), Brooklyn
- Janee Phillips, University of the District of Columbia, Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic
- Nicholas Pietropaolo, University of Michigan, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Amy Pimentel, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Ellen Porter, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Sarah Pratter, University of Michigan, Family Law Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- William Price, NYU, The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Molly Priedman, NYU, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Sarah Raab, Georgetown University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Goli Rahimi, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Erica (Nic) Rangel, Albany Law School, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- Samantha Rauer, Boston University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Santosh Reddy, University of the District of Columbia, UDC-DCSL Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Jessica Rhoades, University of Illinois, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Stephanie Ridella, Chicago-Kent, Center for Disability and Elder Law, Chicago
- Freya Riel, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Sabrina Rivera, Loyola Los Angeles, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
- Kimberly Rolla, University of Virginia, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Katarzyna Ryzewska, University of Michigan, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Anchorage, AK
- Shannon Quinn, John Marshall Law School, Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Eliza Schafler, NYU, Public Counsel
- Jessica Scholes, NYU, Disability Rights Advocates, NYC
- Eva Seidelman, University of the District of Columbia, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Cara Sgobba, Boston College, Disability Law Center, Boston
- Nari Shin, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Chaula Shukla, Albany Law School, The Legal Project, Albany, NY

- Michelle Sisco, Northeastern University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Rachel Smit, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Emily Soli, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, DNA's People's Legal Services, Window Rock, AZ
- Leigh-Anne St. Charles, Columbia University, Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky, Prestonsburg
- Jazamine Stallings, Drexel University, The Support Center for Child Advocates, Philadelphia, PA
- Adrienne Steiner, Cornell University, Community Justice Project, Harrisburg, PA
- Emma Steiner, Cornell University, California Rural Legal Assistance
- Matt Stucky, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kanika Suri, Wayne State, Michigan Immigrant's Rights Center, Kalamazoo, MI
- Anastasia Sushko, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Timothy Sutton, Southwestern University, UCLA Downtown Labor Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Jessica Swensen, Boston College, The Bronx Defenders
- Madeline Taylor, Catholic University, Ayuda, Sterling, VA
- Raquel Toledo, Columbia University, East Bay Community Law Center
- Emily Toler, University of Washington, Unemployment Law Project, Seattle, WA
- Ashley Toles, UC Hastings, Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco, CA
- Olga Tomchin, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA
- Tina Tran, Loyola University Chicago, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Chicago
- Thais-Lyn Trayer, American University, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Ian Vance, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Jerry Vang, , University of Wisconsin, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Meghan VanLeuwen, John Marshall Law School, Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project, Chicago, IL
- Kishwer Vikaas, Temple University, Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, PA
- Sean Vitka, Boston College, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, Cambridge, MA
- Eli Wade-Scott, Harvard, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Allison Wagner, University of Illinois, Family Defense Center, Chicago
- Catherine Wagner, University of Texas, Texas Civil Rights Project, Austin, TX
- Amanda Walsh, Loyola University Chicago, Family Defense Center, Chicago, IL
- Katherine Walsham, UC Hastings, National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA
- Xavier Watson, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Unemployment Project
- Jessica Wayne, Wayne State, Farmworker Legal Services (Legal Services of South Central Michigan is their parent organization), Kalamazoo, MI
- Sonia Weil, George Washington University, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Hannah Weinstein, UCLA, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Kristen Wekony, Boston University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, Cambridge, MA
- Samuel Welch, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, San Francisco, CA
- Geoffrey Wertime, NYU, Housing Works, NYC

- Kelsey Williams, Loyola Los Angeles, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Michael Wood, Chicago-Kent, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Claire Wu, Loyola Los Angeles, Public Counsel
- Zainab Wurie, Emory University, Georgia Legal Services, Atlanta, GA
- Rebecca Wylie, Loyola University Chicago, Equip for Equality, Chicago, IL
- Mary Yang, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jefferson Yi, Cornell University, Legal Services NYC, Bronx
- Elizabeth Youakim, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Daniel Yu, NYU, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Allison Yurcik, Columbia University, Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services (Legal Services NYC), Brooklyn
- Deena Zakim, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Meredith Zeitzer, Temple University, Community Legal Services, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
- Jason Zhe Qu, Harvard, Lambda Legal, NYC

Legal Services Programs Where EJA has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Advancement Project, Washington, DC
- Advocacy, Inc., Austin, TX
- Advocacy Center of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo, OH
- Advocates for Children of New York
- Advocates for Justice and Education, Washington, DC
- Affordable Housing Advocates, San Diego, CA
- AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- Alaska Legal Services
- The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL
- American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ
- American Gateways, Austin, TX
- Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Whitesburg, KY
- Appalachian Legal Services
- Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky
- Appleseed Foundation, Washington, DC
- Archdiocesan Legal Network, Washington, DC
- Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, DC
- Association for Children of New Jersey, Newark, NJ
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- AYUDA Legal Aid, Washington, DC
- BASTA, Inc, Los Angeles, CA
- Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Minneapolis, MN
- Bay Area Legal Aid, Oakland/San Francisco/San Jose, CA
- Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa, FL
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington, DC
- Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services, Brooklyn, NY
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- Bluhm Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Boat People SOS, Houston, TX
- Boston College Immigration and Asylum Project
- Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau
- Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Break the Cycle, Los Angeles, CA
- Brennan Center for Justice, New York, NY
- The Bronx Defenders
- Bronx Legal Services
- Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Brooklyn, NY
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services, MA
- Campaign for Educational Equity, New York, NY
- Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Washington, DC
- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Boston, MA
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Catholic Charities Community Services, New York, NY
- Catholic Charities Immigration and Legal Services, Dallas, TX
- Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Catholic Charities Legal Services, Miami, FL
- Catholic Legal Assisatance Ministry, St. Louis, MO
- Center for Arkansas Legal Services

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Center for Children's Advocacy, Hartford, CT
- Center for Children's Law and Policy, Washington, DC
- Center for Civil Justice, Saginaw, MI
- Center for Disability and Elder Law, Chicago, IL
- Center for Family Representation, New York, NY
- Center for Law and Education, Washington DC/ Boston, MA
- Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment, San Francisco, CA
- Central American Legal Assistance, Brooklyn, NY
- Central American Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Centro Legal de la Raza, Oakland, CA
- Charlottesville-Abermarle Legal Aid Society, VA
- Chemung Legal Services, Elmira, NY
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, SD
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Chicago Legal Clinic
- Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- The Child Care Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Children's Law Center, New York, NY
- Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Children's Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Children's Rights, New York, NY
- Citizens Concerned for Children (Attorneys for Children), Ithaca, NY
- City Bar Justice Center, New York, NY
- Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, Los Angeles, CA
- Colorado Legal Services
- Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA
- Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Refugee & Immigrant Services, Roanoke, VA
- Community Action Program Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Community Health Advocates, New York, NY
- Community Justice Inc., Madison, WI
- Community Justice Project, Pittsburgh/Harrisburg, PA
- Community Lawyers, Inc., Compton, CA
- Community Legal Aid Society, Wilmington, DE
- Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI
- Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, Cambridge, MA
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA
- The Community Tax Law Project, Richmond, VA
- Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Hartford, CT
- Connecticut Legal Services
- Cook County Public Guardian's Office, Chicago, IL
- Cornell Legal Aid Clinic, Ithaca, NY
- Covenant House, Washington, DC
- Covenant House of New Jersey, Youth Advocacy Center
- Dakota Plains Legal Services
- Day One, New York, NY
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Employment Justice Center
- DC Law Students in Court
- Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, University of Michigan Law School, Detroit, MI
- Disability Law Center, Boston, MA
- Disability Law Center, Seattle, WA
- Disability Rights Advocates, Berkeley, CA
- Disability Rights California, Oakland, CA
- Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA
- DNA-People's Legal Services, Window Rock, AZ
- Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- The Door's Legal Services Center, New York, NY

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Dwa Fanm ("Women's Rights in Haitian Creole"), Brooklyn, NY
- East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Economic Justice Institute, Madison, WI
- Empire Justice Center, Albany, NY
- Employment Justice Center, Washington, DC
- Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Equal Justice Center, Austin/San Antonio, TX
- Equal Justice Society, San Francisco, CA
- Equal Rights Advocates, San Francisco, CA
- The Equal Rights Center, Washington, DC
- Equip for Equality, Chicago, IL
- Essex-Newark Legal Services, NJ
- Fair Housing Law Project, San Jose, CA
- Fair Housing Rights Center, Glenside, PA
- Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program, Fairfax, VA
- Family Advocacy Program, Boston Medical Center
- The Family Center, Chicago, IL
- Family Law Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Farmers' Legal Action Group, St. Paul, MI
- Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project, Chicago, IL
- Farmworker Justice, Washington, DC
- Farmworker Legal Services, Bangor/Kalamazoo, MI
- Farmworker Legal Services of New York
- First Star - Putting Children First, Washington, DC
- Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Florence, AZ
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
- Florida Justice Center
- Florida Legal Services
- Free Legal Aid Clinic, Detroit, MI
- General Assistance Advocacy Project, San Francisco, CA
- Georgia Legal Services
- Greater Boston Catholic Charities, Immigration Legal Services
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
- The Gulf Region Advocacy Center, Houston, TX
- Haitian Refugee Center, Miami, FL
- Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Harvard Law School Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
- Harvard Law School Tenant Advocacy Project
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- The Hawkins Center, Richmond, CA
- Health Law Advocates, Boston, MA
- Health Law Advocates of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- Health Legal Services (Law Foundation of Silicon Valley), San Jose, CA
- HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- HIV Law Project, New York, NY
- HomeBase, San Francisco, CA
- Homeless Action Center, Berkeley/Oakland, CA
- Homeless Advocacy Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Homeless Advocacy Project, San Francisco, CA
- Housing Conservation Coordinators, New York, NY
- Housing Preservation Project, St. Paul, MN
- Housing Rights Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Housing Works, New York, NY
- Idaho Legal Aid Services, Boise, ID
- Immigrant Legal Center, Boulder, CO
- Immigrant Legal Resources Center, San Francisco, CA
- Immigration Center for Women and Children, Los Angeles/San Francisco, CA
- Immigration Counseling Service, Portland, OR

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- Immigration Legal Services - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge
- inMotion, Bronx, NY
- Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, New Haven, CT
- International Institute of the East Bay, Oakland, CA
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, FL
- Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
- Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Juvenile Rights Project, Portland, OR
- Kentucky Legal Services
- KIND, Inc (Kids in Need of Defense), Washington, DC
- Knoxville Legal Aid Society, TN
- La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco, CA
- Lakeshore Legal Aid, Southfield, MI
- Lambda Legal, Chicago, IL
- Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Champaign, IL
- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, El Paso, TX
- Latino Workers Center, New York, NY
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF, New York, NY
- Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA
- Lawyers for Children, New York, NY
- Lawyers for Children America, Washington, DC
- Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Chicago, IL
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Boston, MA
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Washington, DC
- Learning Rights Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida
- Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, San Jose, CA
- Legal Aid Association, Detroit, MI
- Legal Aid Bureau, Chicago, IL
- Legal Aid of Central Texas
- Legal Aid Clinic, St. Louis University Law School
- Legal Aid & Defender Service, Pontiac, MI
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville/Petersburg/Richmond, VA
- Legal Aid of Marin County, San Rafael, CA
- Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Legal Aid of North West Texas
- Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Bristol, PA
- Legal Aid of Western Michigan
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- Legal Aid Society, Employment Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, NM
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, OH
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk/Williamsburg, VA
- Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York
- Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
- Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, MN
- Legal Aid Society of New York City
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- Legal Aid Society of Orange County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
- Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, VA
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY
- Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, UT
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, NY
- Legal Aid Society of Western Michigan

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- Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
- Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, Geneva, NY
- Legal Assistance of Western New York
- Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Legal Assistance for Seniors, Oakland, CA
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, PA
- Legal Corps of Los Angeles
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Legal Information for Families Today, New York, NY
- The Legal Project, Albany, NY
- Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plains, MA
- Legal Services of the Blue Ridge, Boone, NC
- Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Services of Dutchess County, NY
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Flint, MI
- Legal Services of Greater Miami
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, White Plains, NY
- Legal Services of New Jersey
- Legal Services for New York City
- Legal Services of North Florida
- Legal Services of Northern California, Sacramento, CA
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, New York, NY
- Lifespan Legal Services, Chicago, IL
- Lone Star Legal Aid, Galveston/Houston, TX
- Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
- Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers Inc.
- Loyola Law Clinic, New Orleans, LA
- Lutheran Family and Community Services, New York, NY
- Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
- Make the Road by Walking, Brooklyn, NY
- Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, University of Chicago Law School
- Manhattan Legal Services, New York, NY
- Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA
- Massachusetts Justice Project
- Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Detroit, MI
- Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Medical Legal Partnership, Boston Medical Center
- Medicare Rights Center, New York, NY
- Mental Health Advocacy Project, San Jose, CA
- Mental Health Advocacy Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Lowell, MA
- MetroWest Legal Services, Framingham, MA
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles, CA
- MFY Legal Services, New York, NY
- Michigan Children's Law Center, Southgate, MI
- Michigan Clinical Law Program, Ann Arbor, MI
- Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Kalamazoo, MI
- Michigan Law's Human Trafficking Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- Michigan Legal Services, Detroit, MI
- Michigan Poverty Law Program

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has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Minneapolis, MN
- Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
- Milwaukee Justice Center
- Minnesota AIDS Project
- Minnesota Legal Services Coalition
- Montana Legal Services Association
- My Sister's Place, Washington, DC
- NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, New York, NY
- Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NY
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, NY
- National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York, NY
- National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA
- National Center for Youth Law, Oakland/San Francisco, CA
- National Employment Law Project, New York, NY/Berkeley, CA
- National Health Law Program, Los Angeles, CA
- National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago, IL
- National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Washington, DC
- National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), Washington, DC
- National Senior Citizens Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque, NM
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, East Boston, MA
- Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
- Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- Neighborhood Law Project, Madison, WI
- Neighborhood Legal Services, Lawrence/Lynn, MA
- Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan
- Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- Nevada Legal Services, Las Vegas
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- New Orleans Legal Assistance
- New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- North Carolina Justice Center
- North Penn Legal Services, Williamsport, PA
- North State Legal Services, Hillsborough, NC
- Northern Virginia Family Service, Falls Church, VA
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
- Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- Northwestern University Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Ohio State Legal Services Association
- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
- Oregon Legal Services
- Pace Women's Justice Center, White Plains, NY
- Palm Beach County Legal Aid Bureau
- Penn Housing Rights Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- People's Law Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Philadelphia Unemployment Project
- Philadelphia VIP
- Picture the Homeless, New York, NY
- Piedmont Legal Services, Charlottesville, VA
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine

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has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, Boston, MA
- Political Asylum Project of Austin, TX
- Positive Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Potomac Legal Aid Society
- Poverty & Race Research Action Council, Washington, DC
- Prairie State Legal Services, Bloomington, IL
- Prisoners' Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Prison Legal Assistance Project, Cambridge, MA
- Pro Bono Advocates, Chicago, IL
- Pro Bono Institute at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC
- Pro Bono Partnership, Newark, NJ & White Plains, NY
- Pro Bono Project, New Orleans, LA
- Project Renewal, New York, NY
- Protection & Advocacy Inc., Los Angeles, CA
- Public Advocates, San Francisco, CA
- Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Public Interest Law Project, New York, NY
- Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD
- Queens Legal Services, NY
- Rappahannock Legal Services, Culpeper/Fredericksburg/Tappahannock, VA
- Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services, Roanoke, VA
- Regional Housing Legal Services, Glenside, PA
- Resilience Advocacy Project, New York, NY
- Rhode Island Legal Aid Bureau
- Rocky Mountain Children's Justice Center, Denver, CO
- Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, Denver, CO
- Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Westminster, CO
- Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, Denver, CO
- Rural Law Center of New York, Plattsburgh, NY
- Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, New York, NY
- San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation
- Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, New York, NY
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL
- SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Solid Ground, Seattle, WA
- South Brooklyn Legal Services
- South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice
- South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham, MA
- South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, New Orleans, LA
- Southeast Texas Legal Clinic
- Southern Migrant Legal Services, Nashville, TN
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
- Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL/Atlanta, GA
- Southern Tier Legal Services, Bath, NY
- Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- STAND! Against Domestic Violence (formerly Batter Women's Alternatives)
- Stanford Community Law Clinic, East Palo Alto, CA
- Street Law Program at Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
- Student Hurricane Network, New Orleans, LA
- Sugar Law Center, Detroit, MI
- Support Center for Child Advocates, Philadelphia, PA
- Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco, CA

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships at the Following Legal Assistance Organizations

- Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, VA
- Tenderloin Housing Clinic San Francisco, CA
- Texas Advocacy Project, Austin, TX
- Texas Appleseed
- Texas Civil Rights Project, Austin, TX
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Tompkins Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services, Ithaca, NY
- Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York, NY
- UCLA Downtown Labor Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Unemployment Law Project, Seattle, WA
- University of the District of Columbia Law Clinics
- University of Michigan's General Clinic
- University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic
- University of Michigan Law School's Pediatric Advocacy Initiative
- University Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Uptown People's Law Center, Chicago, IL
- Urban Justice Center, New York, NY
- Vermont Legal Aid
- Victim Rights Law Center, Boston, MA
- Virginia Justice Center
- Virginia Legal Aid Society, Danville/Lynchburg, VA
- Virginia Poverty Law Center, Richmond, VA
- Voices for America's Children, Washington, DC
- Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, Newark, NJ
- Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Boston, MA
- Volunteer Legal Services Program, San Francisco, CA
- W. Haywood Burns Institute, San Francisco, CA
- Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Washington, DC
- Welfare Law Center, New York, NY
- West Tennessee Legal Services
- Westchester-Putnam Legal Services, NY
- Western Wisconsin Legal Services
- Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC
- Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC
- Women's Bar Foundation, Boston, MA
- Women's Justice Center (formerly Battered Women's Justice Center), White Plains, NY
- Workers Defense Project, Austin, TX
- Working Hands Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Youth Advocacy Project, Roxbury, MA
- Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Youth Represent, New York, NY

Equal Justice America
Disability Rights Clinic

Training future lawyers and providing free legal services to low income disabled persons of all ages.

FINAL REPORT

Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

John Jay Legal Services

Pace University School of Law

June 29, 2012

Introduction

Completing its twelfth year of operation, the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at Pace University School of Law continues its dual mission of training future lawyers and providing free legal services to low income persons with disabilities and their families.

Pace Law School's clinical offerings, under the umbrella of John Jay Legal Services, enable students to gain proficiency in lawyering skills while representing clients pursuant to a Student Practice Order issued by the Appellate Division, Second Department of the New York State Supreme Court. Under supervision of full-time clinical faculty, students enrolled in clinical courses perform all lawyering functions normally reserved to lawyers admitted to practice. In addition to the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, John Jay Legal Services also provides representation to individuals by student attorneys enrolled in the Investor Rights Clinic, the Barbara Salken Criminal Justice Clinic, the Post-Conviction Clinic, and the Immigration Justice Clinic. In addition to these client representation clinics, field work in the non-profit legal arena is available to students through the Legal Services/Public Interest/Health Law Externship, the Family Court Externship, the Prosecution Externship, the Environmental Law Externship, and the Honors Prosecution Externship, a joint undertaking with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

The Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

The Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic provides students with the opportunity to learn and apply lawyering skills as well as the substantive law relating to the rights of persons with disabilities in a highly controlled and intensively supervised legal practice environment. For most students, it is their first experience with law as lawyers.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, the Clinic was again offered as a two-semester course. Eight students participated in the Clinic. One student was enrolled in the part-time evening division. The rest were full-time day students. The students were enrolled for either a total of four or six credits each semester, depending on their other commitments. All students participated in the seminar which provided two academic credits each semester and each student's case load for the remaining clinical credits was tailored to his or her interests and time constraints. Students are expected to spend on average five hours per week per clinical credit on case-related work.

<u>The Seminar Component</u>

In a weekly seminar, students learn and practice lawyering skills such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact investigation, and conducting administrative hearings. The learning of these skills is integrated with relevant substantive law, including eligibility for the government benefit programs available to persons with disabilities (Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Medical Assistance, special education services) and the planning tools available to disabled persons and their families (guardianships, wills, special needs trusts). The seminar also provides the opportunity for students to present issues and choices from the cases they are working on and benefit from the critical reflection of their colleagues. Ethical issues are discussed as they arise in individual cases with particular emphasis on the complexities of working with clients of diminished mental capacity. Students learn how to read and interpret medical records and work with medical personnel to describe a client's medical condition using legally relevant terminology. Students also learn how to work with other helping professionals, such as social workers, doctors, nurses and advocates, to identify and meet clients' non-legal needs. Readings focused on learning lawyering skills are supplemented with readings directly relevant to disability law.

The Case Work Component

Clinic students, either individually or in teams, have primary responsibility for the conduct of their assigned cases. The student lawyer is responsible for planning each lawyering activity, reviewing the plan with the Clinic faculty supervisor, conducting the activity and finally, reflecting on the experience and the usefulness of the preparation. Throughout the year, each student engages in client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation and witness interviewing, legal research and analysis, and drafting a variety of legal documents and instruments. Most students have the opportunity to appear before a court or administrative tribunal.

The cases handled involved a variety of legal issues faced by disabled persons and their families. Clients were referred by several social service agencies with which we have formed alliances, including the Westchester County Commission of Human Right, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Mt. Vernon Board of Education, NAMI of Westchester, and UCP of Westchester, Taconic Innovations and Jowonio, case management agencies serving persons with developmental disabilities. Several clients were referred by other Clinic clients or self-referred. All of the clients are low income. They are unable to pay for the legal help they need and were unable to secure representation from other sources of free legal services. Several cases completed during the year were begun during previous years.

A total of 41 matters were handled by students during the grant year.* Of these, 17 were new matters. Thirteen matters were concluded by the end of the grant year and 28 are pending. The cases involved the following substantive areas:

Area	Number of Clients
Art. 17-A Guardianship	17
Special Education	2
Lifetime and Estate Planning	2
Estate Administration	5
Benefits Issues	5
Special Needs Trusts	5
Human Rights	3
Consumer	1
Real Estate	1

Case Examples

By far the most exciting case that students worked on this year involved the efforts of Mr. L. to obtain permission from his co-operative to have a comfort dog. Despite multiple requests and documentation of his disability from his psychiatrist, the co-op refused to allow an exception from the building's no pet policy. Mr. L. filed a complaint with the Westchester County Commission on Human Rights and after probable cause was found, Mr. L. was referred to the Clinic for representation at a hearing. Two students were assigned to the case. They conducted additional investigation, engaged in discovery, handled all pre-hearing conferences and conducted direct and cross examination of all witness in the hearing that was held over 12 days

* During the summer of 2011, three students are working in the Clinic, two for pay and one for credit through our Legal Services Externship. During the summer of 2012, three students are working in the Clinic, two for pay and one as a volunteer. The students are paid with Federal work study funds and grants from two Clinic alumni.

during the spring semester. Reply briefs are due on July 9 and we expect a decision before the end of the summer.

We continued to work with families who wish to become guardians of their adult children with developmental disabilities. Students worked with 17 such clients during the year. All clients have been counseled about the guardianship process and assisted in identifying standby guardians and obtaining necessary certifications from doctors and psychologists. Letters of guardianship were issued by the Surrogate in 6 cases. One client decided not to proceed. We are awaiting a decision in one case which was filed in Queens Surrogate's Court after the ward was moved to a group home in Queens. Petitions are being prepared in the remaining cases.

Five clients were assisted with benefits matters. The Social Security Administration agreed to reinstate SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits for a young woman who had received benefits before turning 18, but was denied benefits as an adult. The students working with this client assisted in obtaining up to date information from her medical providers and benefits were restored without the need to go to a hearing. Clinic students assisted Ms. C., the mother of two adult sons with disabilities, obtain higher SSI benefits for each of her sons. Case law in the Second Circuit requires that individuals who pay a set amount for room and board be budgeted at a higher rate than those who share expenses with others or do not contribute towards room and board. The local Social Security offices do not tell families about this provision and advocacy is often needed in order to have such individuals budgeted properly. For Ms. C., her sons now each receive $788 monthly, rather than $488. For a low-income family, this makes a significant difference. We are working with another family to secure increased SSI benefits for their son.

Five clients are being assisted with special needs trusts. Mrs. M. was assisted with an application to the NYSARC Community Trust so that all of her Social Security Income will be available to meet her needs, rather than be applied to the cost of her medical care. This client, who does not speak English and is disabled, is also the mother of an adult child with developmental disabilities. The student assigned to her case helped her obtain the QMB subsidy so that Medicaid will pay her Medicare premiums. For this client, an additional $100 a month makes a significant difference in her ability to makes ends meet. Mrs. M.'s participation in the NYSARC Trust was approved and she is awaiting approval from the Department of Social Services.

We are involved in five cases requiring the administration of modest estates in Surrogate's Court. Each of these cases involved extensive investigation or challenging family relations. During the year, one estate was settled. We are wrapping up a second case in which our client, the administratrix, is herself seriously ill. Three cases pending. These cases provide excellent experience for the students and a service to the clients who would otherwise see their modest inheritances spent on investigators and lawyers.

We were able to assist a client who was facing the loss of her home in a tax foreclosure proceeding. The City of Yonkers sells its tax liens to investors who may then move to sell the property if the lien is not satisfied. Ms. Y. inherited her home from her parents, but had never probated the estate or had the deed transferred into her name. Ms. Y. fell behind in her tax payments when she was out of work due to illness. An investor who bought the lien instituted foreclosure proceedings. Ms. Y. was able to obtain a reverse mortgage and satisfy with lien after the student assigned to her case obtained her sister's permission to transfer the deed into Ms. Y.'s name and prepared and filed all the necessary documents.

In each of the two Special Education cases, the students attended Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings with the parents and secured needed services for the children.

Community Outreach

Clinic students and other law student volunteers participated in Westchester County's Senior Law Day on October 27, 2011. After audience members heard a presentation about health care proxies, the law student volunteers assisted them with completing health care proxies and answered their individual questions.

On February 22, 2012, Prof. Flint spoke with members of Hope House, a self-help organization for the disabled in Port Chester, New York. The audience was interested in learning how returning to work would affect their Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits and how to avoid incurring overpayment of benefits.

Plans for 2012-2013

The Clinic is being offered again next year as a year-long course. Six students are enrolled. We anticipate handling a similar mix of litigation and transaction matters, assisting low income persons without other means of securing needed legal services and giving future lawyers the skills necessary to help this vulnerable population.

Letters from Legal Services Organizations

Section 2

TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

1405 Montopolis Drive
Austin, TX 78741-3438
512-474-5073 (telephone) 512-474-0726 (fax)
web: TexasCivilRightsProject.org

August 24, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing with my evaluation of Denise Hernandez's EJA-sponsored summer legal clerkship with the Texas Civil Rights Project. Denise worked full-time for ten weeks at the TCRP office in Austin, Texas. During her time at TCRP, Denise gained in-depth experience in a variety of practice areas, including litigation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, prisoner's rights work, and police misconduct analysis. Her work also consisted of handling litigation tasks, such as conducting legal research and drafting petitions and discovery.

Denise's research and writing was consistently excellent. She quickly grasped complex legal concepts and was able to effectively communicate them to both legal and non-legal audiences. Denise created a "know your rights" presentation for a community group that was informative and very well-received. She tackled her assignments with passion and demonstrated a high level of empathy toward clients. Denise also took initiative in identifying and pursuing systemic problems that she encountered in her work. While she showed an enthusiasm to ask questions and accept supervision, she also demonstrated an internal confidence and motivation to work independently.

The Texas Civil Rights Project is grateful to Equal Justice America for providing fellowships that enable us to recruit students like Denise. Denise completed a large volume of work this summer that allowed us to significantly increase our impact on the community. We would be delighted to host future recipients of the EJA fellowship.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about Denise or her work at TCRP.

Sincerely,

Abby Frank

Abby Frank
Staff Attorney

Adam J. Halper, Esq.
The Family Center
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ahalper@thefamilycenter.org

August 8, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Re: Elise Benninghofen.

Mr. Ruben,

I am the Director of Legal Services at The Family Center (TFC), a multidisciplinary legal and social services organization. I write to this letter on behalf of Elise Benninghofen, a Cardozo Law School student whom we had the privilege of hosting this summer

Since 1994, The Family Center has worked with individuals and families affected by illness, grief and loss. Our organization is dedicated to assisting some of New York City's most vulnerable and disenfranchised communities with quality legal, social and medical case management services. In our model of service, lawyers work hand-in-hand with social workers, case managers, medical personnel, and others not only to address the legal issue, but also to address the many psycho-social and economic issues that come with a diagnosis of serious illness.

This model of service means that our work with clients generally does not begin in the courts. Often, the place where our cases commence is in hospitals, hospices, local CBO's and in client's homes. Our referrals come from oncology and virology departments, home care agencies, welfare job centers and any institution you where would expect to find people struggling with serious illness. We have formal and informal agreements with medical providers across the city and they refer clients to us for a host of legal issues including housing, government benefits, family and matrimonial law matters and trust and estates. TFC's Legal Services Department has a high volume of both transactional and litigation work. That work is conducted with clients in their living rooms and kitchens; we help them execute wills at their hospital beds, we are their advocates in courts across New York City.

So, this work is not for everyone. It poses challenges to intellect, but also to one's comfort. It is one thing to draft an advance directive. Executing it with a client, at their hospital bed, is another.

Elise came to as after having completed her second year. She had done her first summer at the office of the district attorney and was no stranger to legal cases which carried an emotional component. We expected good things from her. It is without reservation, that I can say that she exceeded all expectations. Elise is possessed of strong analytic, research and writing skills. She is a superb advocate for clients and had direct engagement with many during the summer. She is remarkably thoughtful and worked hard to address all matters before her – both large and small. An exhaustive list of her work this summer would be difficult to put together. Let me provide some highlights.

- Elise helped us to prepare for a bitter divorce trial. All issues are contested including child custody, support and even, grounds. These matters can be somewhat complex, but in this case, it was much more so because of our adversary is an unrepresented and remarkably unwell man who had abused his wife to a shocking degree. He is belligerent, threatening and manipulative to everyone involved in his divorce matter including his soon-to-be ex-wife, the Judge and our staff. Elise assisted the staff attorney in preparing the client's testimony, evidence entry and other matters connected to trial. On the day of the trial, she second-seated the attorney. Her work was excellent, timely and much-needed.

- Elise researched and provided staff attorneys with guidance on innumerable questions of law connected to jurisdiction, due process, tenant rights, succession rights, judge recusal, utility disputes, guardianship issues, evidence foundation, pleading rules and much more. Her research was excellent: her opinion on hard-to answer questions -- trusted.

- Elise drafted papers in connection to family, housing and lifetime planning matters and met with clients to discuss and execute the papers, if that was needed. She met with clients all over the city and spoke with them extensively about their cases, both to gather information as well as to take that information and use it constructively in the resolution of their issues. On more than one occasion, clients reported to me that Elise had done an excellent job on their behalf. It is not uncommon to hear from clients that they appreciated our work and staff and as a supervisor, I never get tired of hearing praise for staff. It is uncommon that the praise is so consistent and it was for Elise.

What everyone had to say about Elise and what I feel as well, is that she possesses maturity beyond her years. She actively listens, is articulate and responds with thoughtfulness and honesty. I and others have observed that Elise thinks before she speaks and says, plainly, when she does not know the answer to a question. This quality, that of self-knowledge, is a tremendous asset to clients whose trust she gained and will continue to do so after she becomes a member of the bar. She's authentic in her desire to be of assistance to others and wants to get her hands dirty in the messiness of fighting and resolving complex legal issues. This summer, she had the opportunity to do so for a vulnerable client population. Her assistance on their behalf was incalculable. Her assistance to my agency was tremendous.

As a final note, I've been doing this work for a while and I feel confident in saying that we all know the sacrifices in working in poverty law are many. Still, most of us choose to do it because working with people on intimate legal matters at a time when legal assistance is desperately needed -- is to be afforded the privilege of bearing witness. Even in dark moments, you never lose sight of that privilege. However, you can't do it without real assistance and the assistance provided by Equal Justice America, makes doing this work possible for interns at my agency. I know that I speak for Elise, our clients and The Family Center when I say thank you for helping to make this work possible.

Equal Justice America has the gratitude of my agency and its support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S//:

Adam J. Halper
Director of Legal Services

The Legal Project
Capital District Women's Bar Association

Lisa A. Frisch
Executive Director
Ellen C. Schell, Esq.
Counsel
Carla Brogoch, Esq.
Supervising Attorney
Susan S. Pattenaude, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Director of Pro Bono Services
Gayle E. Hartz, Esq.
Staff Attorney

August 21, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: *Chaula H. Shukla, EJA Fellow at The Legal Project, Summer 2012*

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing this letter to report on Chaula Shukla's successful completion of her Equal Justice America Summer 2012 Fellowship Award.

We at The Legal Project were very grateful to have such a qualified and enthusiastic fellow as Ms. Shukla, and are very thankful to Equal Justice America for providing the funding for her to have this opportunity with us. As our Equal Justice America fellow, Ms. Shukla worked specifically with our in-house Staff Attorneys and provided assistance with our domestic violence program. In this program, we assist low income victims of intimate partner domestic violence at all stages of their efforts to leave an abusive situation, whether they are here merely for advice as to their legal options or whether they need legal representation with a divorce or matters involving custody or support.

As our fellow, Ms. Shukla worked a full time schedule and assisted in a variety of cases. Often, Ms. Shukla would sit in on client meetings and consultations with potential clients. From these meetings, she was able to learn about a variety of areas of law that affect domestic violence victims as well as observe the different ways that our Staff Attorneys have of interacting with clients. Ms. Shukla attended court appearances with our Staff

Attorneys in both Supreme and Family Court. Ms. Shukla also assisted with drafting divorce documents, motions, and conducting legal research.

Under a Student Practice Order, Ms. Shukla, with attorney supervision, conducted her own client interview and interacted directly with clients regarding their divorce cases. Ms. Shukla has now learned the process involved in obtaining a simple, no fault, uncontested divorce in New York State and is able to draft the necessary paperwork to do so. She also helped with more complicated divorces, learning about financial disclosure, discovery, and motion practice. In addition, she observed many different court hearings, including a complicated two day equitable trial against a self represented batterer.

Ms. Shukla was always willing to help out and was obviously very dedicated to our clients and the work we do. For example, on one occasion, Ms. Shukla attended court with one of our volunteer panel attorneys who was representing a victim of domestic violence who was terrified to go to court because her abuser had many lawyer friends and family which he was using to intimidate her. The client herself had no local support or advocates. Ms. Shukla was able to go to court with our panel attorney to both offer the client the moral support of a stronger "team" on her side as well as to observe an initial appearance on a somewhat complicated Family Law matter.

Ms. Shukla could always be depended on for her helpful and friendly manner, and professional demeanor with our clients. She was a great asset to our team here at The legal Project. We have been extremely satisfied with Ms. Shukla's work and dedication to our clients. In fact, we are so pleased with Ms. Shukla that we have offered and she has agreed to continue to volunteer with us during her own free time this semester. She will be with us on Monday afternoons, continuing to help with our divorce and family law matters.

Very truly yours,
THE LEGAL PROJECT

By:______________________
Carla Brogoch, Esq.
Supervising Attorney

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Philadelphia VIP

The hub of pro bono legal services in Philadelphia since 1981

August 28, 2012

Ms. Katie Toman
Office Manager
Equal Justice America
Building 11 - Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Ms. Toman,

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to supervise fellowship recipient Jason Lerner at Philadelphia VIP this summer. On behalf of Philadelphia VIP, I thank Equal Justice America for supporting Jason's work with us this summer. He was an asset to our team.

Philadelphia VIP is a non-profit legal services agency that provides free civil legal services to low-income Philadelphians by referring them to private attorneys who handle our cases on a *pro bono* basis. VIP receives referrals from other legal services agencies and is generally the "last resort" for clients seeking free legal assistance.

Jason's work concentrated on homeownership or "tangled title" issues that affect a large number of Philadelphia's low-income residents. Individuals who live in homes with tangled title problems have a legal interest in their homes but are not the legal, or record, owners. In many cases, the record owner of the property is a deceased relative whose estate was never probated, which prevents title from being legally transferred into the individual's name. Tangled title problems also arise when an individual has entered into a rent-to-own agreement to eventually purchase the house from the owner, but the owner dies, disappears, or becomes uncooperative once title should be conveyed to the individual.

As an intern, Jason had a significant amount of responsibility and he handled his work like a seasoned veteran. Under my supervision, Jason had to evaluate new tangled title cases for possible referral to VIP volunteer attorneys. In evaluating the cases, Jason has to assess the cases' legal merit and the clients' eligibility for free legal services. This process involved considerable client interviewing and follow up, as well as presenting the cases to the homeownership team during our weekly

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case reviews. Jason learned quickly and was able to process all of his cases timely.

In addition to working with clients, Jason assisted volunteer attorneys in their representation of VIP tangled title clients. He obtained statuses of cases that were already referred to volunteer attorneys and provided guidance to volunteer attorneys on issues, legal and otherwise, that arose in their clients' cases.

Jason also wrote two legal memos on issues germane to our work – one on adverse possession and the other on testamentary intent. His writing and analytical skills were excellent, and we will share the memos with our volunteers as written.

Jason's hard work had a direct impact on the legal representation provided to low-income homeowners (or potential homeowners) in Philadelphia and prevented families from losing their only shelter, their home. As a former Equal Justice America fellowship recipient, I hope Jason's fellowship experience has a much of an impact on his career as it did mine. Thank you again for funding Jason's work for Philadelphia VIP.

Sincerely,

Roxane Crowley
Homeownership Attorney

Sanctuary for Families

Center for Battered Women's Legal Services
110 Wall Street, 11th Floor
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tel 212.349.6009 fax 212.566.0344
www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

August 6, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
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Mid-Lothian, Virginia 23112
Ph. #: (804) 744 4200
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Subject: Summer 2012 Fellowship Review for Mikaela Evans-Aziz

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to provide you feedback on my summer intern, Mikaela Evans-Aziz, an Equal Justice America Summer 2012 Fellow. Based on my professional and personal familiarity with Mikaela, I believe that her considerable intelligence, diligence, and personal dedication will be strong assets for a law school student and a budding lawyer.

As the Public Benefits Legal Advocate at Sanctuary for Families' Center for Battered Women Legal Services I am very familiar with Mikaela's work and abilities. Mikaela worked under my supervision as an intern this summer. The main objective of Mikaela's work has been to provide legal services to immigrant victims of domestic violence in the area of welfare law from June 4th to date.

Mikaela's work performance in the capacity of a summer fellow has been exceptional. As my intern, Mikaela displayed strong research and writing abilities. Mikaela distinguished herself in the workplace through her strong commitment to our mission and our clients, through her exceptionally strong work ethic, through her first-rate interpersonal skills, through her ability to communicate effectively to a wide variety of audiences and through her excellent advocacy abilities. As the summer fellow, Mikaela has demonstrated an exceptional ability to assist us with advocacy to our many immigrant clients, demonstrating both superb linguistic abilities (Mikaela is fluent in French as well as in English) and acute sensitivity to many cultural issues faced by these women. I believe that a description of a few of Mikaela's achievements during her work at Sanctuary for Families will help convey her many strengths.

Sanctuary for Families

Center for Battered Women's Legal Services
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New York, NY 10005-3817
tel 212.349.6009 fax 212.566.0344
www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

Mikaela worked closely with me on a number of cases. In particular, she represented one of our clients at two separate Fair Hearings—one on improper denial of public assistance and one on inadequacy of food stamps. The client, a Mexican immigrant, recently left her abuser and needed immediate assistance in order to provide for her three children. Mikaela won both Fair Hearings for the client and the agency agreed to continue all benefits going forward and to restore any assistance and benefits lost by our client. Furthermore, Mikaela extensively discussed options for our client's career and how to work towards more sustainable and financially-secure employment. Another case in which Mikaela contributed significantly involved a high-school client whose food stamps and public assistance cases had been sanctioned for failing to comply with employment requirements. The agency failed to count her online courses towards her 35-hour school and work requirement. Although there was no existing Fair Hearing case law on counting online courses towards work requirements, Mikaela was able to find a number of cases where GED courses and other high school equivalency programs were sufficient. She also made a strong policy argument in her memorandum about the importance of high school education and that finishing high school in a traditional classroom setting is not always a feasible option—which is exactly why alternative programs exist.

In summation, it was a great pleasure to work with Mikaela Evans-Aziz. I warmly welcome any further inquiries regarding her professional background and personal capabilities.

Sincerely yours,

Sonia Mansoor
Public Benefits Legal Advocate
L.L.M., Columbia University School of Law (May '02)
Center for Battered Women's Legal Services
212-349-6009, ext. 314
smansoor@sffny.org

GREATER NEW ORLEANS
FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

September 13, 2012

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II - Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road,
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing you regarding Garret DeReus and his fellowship at the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action. I am the head staff attorney of the fair lending division. Over the summer Garret has greatly assisted us and our clients by conducting client intakes and by drafting memos, complaints, and other internal documents.

Garret did an amazing job working with our clients. He listened to what they had to say and inquired into their situation using precise yet compassionate questions. We often have clients that have forgotten many of the details of their situation. This can make obtaining information from them difficult. Garret was always patient and listened to their entire story. Typically our intakes usually take more than half an hour. By the end of each intake Garret was able to clearly explain to me the client's situation in one of two sentences. I appreciated his ability to quickly understand their situation and clarify what is often a jumble of facts.

Over the course of his fellowship Garret helped us research several laws that we plan on using protect our clients. Over the summer he developed a document that summarizes every fair lending law. This research will ensure that none of our clients fall through the cracks. Further, Garret was invaluable in conducting legal research for our clients under my guidance. He went above and beyond to review our clients' issues and assess them in the context of all possible causes of action. I am sure that Garret will do his best to preserve and protect the rights of every individual if he pursues a career in civil rights.

Finally, I would like to comment on Garret's desire to pursue work in civil rights. I am sure that Garret could work in any area of law. He is hardworking, dedicated, and intellectual. Based on my conversations with him, I know that he is committed to civil rights and consumer protection work.

I am sincerely grateful for having had the opportunity to work with Garret over the course of his summer fellowship. If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Shontee Smothers
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
Staff Attorney
504-208-5076
ssmothers@gnofairhousing.org

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES
OF PHILADELPHIA

Sent by email to Katie Toman,
katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

August 17, 2012

Mr. Dan Ruben, Esquire
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II - Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As a supervising attorney in the Employment Unit of Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, I had the pleasure of supervising Meredith Zeitzer during her internship with us. Because of your fellowship, Meredith was able to receive financial support while providing invaluable assistance to both our clients and our full time staff.

Over the course of the summer, Meredith had the opportunity to work with many clients on a variety of issues, ranging from wage theft claims to the draconian effect upon our clients due to the implementation of the Philadelphia court's criminal debt collection efforts. With each new case assigned to her, Meredith quickly understood what was necessary to move the case forward. I was impressed by her level of organization, thoughtfulness, attention to detail, and interviewing skills. She demonstrated a clear commitment to the work of CLS and her passion for working with indigent clients was evident throughout the summer.

CLS receives thousands of requests for legal assistance each year. We could not help as many people as we do in as prompt and timely a fashion without the work of our summer law students. Your fellowship allowed Meredith to take an active and important role in working with our clients at a time when we are seeing our clients pushed further to the margins as a result of drastic budget cuts in Pennsylvania which directly affects our clients, as well as affecting the budget of legal services in providing services to our clients.

Within the past two years, the Pennsylvania courts' efforts to collect *old* fines, costs, and forfeited bail judgments from criminal defendants has threatened both the physical and emotional well being of our clients. Many of these defendants live solely on welfare or disability benefits (or have no income), and therefore do not have the funds to pay back thousands of dollars that the courts, itself, failed to collect when defendants were first brought into the criminal justice system, sometimes as long as thirty years ago. CLS received an influx of applicants/clients seeking help to lower or manage their criminal debt. Because criminal debt serves as a barrier to clearing one's criminal record, which is itself a barrier to employment, the Employment Unit took on the responsibility of handling these unique and complex cases. We quickly learned, however, that the court's unprecedented efforts was ever-changing and difficult to decipher.

Meredith took on the task of handling several of these cases with great enthusiasm and diligence. By engaging court staff and working hard on behalf of her clients, Meredith was able to contribute crucial information as the court's efforts evolved that enabled our office to intercede immediately! She was able to assist clients in managing their debt by representing them at court-run payment plan conferences and she helped to analyze the details of the bail judgments, thereby leading to the preparation of petitions to vacate/reduce bail judgments.

With the help of Equal Justice America, Meredith provided an important service to CLS and our clients. Thank you for giving Meredith an opportunity to work with CLS for the summer. It was a pleasure to work with her. Please let me know if you need any additional information from me. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Young

Suzanne J. Young
Supervising Attorney

Letters from Equal Justice America Fellowship Recipients

Section 3

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I hope all is well. I am writing to thank you for making my public interest work possible by funding my fellowship at Equip For Equality (EFE) this past semester. This semester was my last in law school. While many friends and co-workers encouraged me to "take it easy" in my last few months of school, I knew that I wanted to return to doing work that was both important and fulfilling. Your support enabled me to continue doing the very work that I came to law school to do.

Before I go any further, I would also like to share some good news with you. As you know, this past semester was my second "tour of duty" with Equip for Equality and the second time I have received support from your wonderful organization. Thanks to you, your donors, and your staff, I am also pleased to say that this will not be my last time working with EFE. In fact, I have been awarded a post-graduate fellowship to establish a new 2-year project at EFE to represent low income and minority families of children with Learning Disabilities.

I cannot overstate how important your organization's support has been to helping me obtain this post graduate fellowship. Last summer, you helped support my work at EFE for three months. During that time, I helped numerous clients but also gained valuable experience in the special education law field. EFE's attorneys mentored me and taught me the "ins and outs" of special education law. In short, they prepared me to represent clients in need long after my internship ended. Moreover, they recognized my hard work and approached me about applying for post-graduate fellowships. Your organization, by supporting me then and now, provided me with opportunities in public interest and disability rights advocacy. Without your support, I would not have been partnered with such a great organization like EFE, gained this work experience, and been mentored by such committed attorneys. In short, I would never have had the opportunity to turn my internship work into a brand new project.

This past semester was also a remarkable experience. Having worked at EFE in the past, I was even better prepared to effectively advocate for my clients. Over the last few months, I represented over 20 families with various special education concerns. Moreover, I represented students with a wide range of disabilities including learning disabilities, blindness, autism, emotional disabilities, and cerebral palsy. Some of my clients were denied eligibility for special education services and we were able to negotiate with school districts to ensure that these students were determined to be eligible under federal law. In other situations, these children were already eligible but were not placed in classes appropriate for their needs. In these situations, we were able to attend IEP meeting and design new and effective special education programs based on their needs. In other cases, students were denied services necessary for them to participate in education (for example, being denied transportation to and from school) and, with the support of the law, we were able to intervene and obtain these "related services" for these students. In each case, our organization was able to assist parents in obtaining services that their children were being denied but that they were entitled to under the law.

As I have said to you in the past, there're few organizations as worthy of support as Equip For Equality. EFE's clients face many more challenges than the average person. Parents of children with disabilities are often unaware of their legal rights. Many times, they are struggling just to learn about their child's disability and how they can best support their children. Moreover, the great majority of the clients I worked with this semester were also in low income households. With resources, children with disabilities may have access to tutors, private therapy, and other special education support outside of school. With fewer or no resources, these individual rely on the public education system to follow the law and provide them with the support they are entitled to. EFE's advocacy is important in many instances, but is crucial when our clients are from low income families. By supporting my work, you enabled us to reach more families in need of crucial legal help.

Thank you again for providing me with a fellowship to work with Equip For Equality. This fellowship helped me represent children with disabilities this semester but has also enabled me to help them far into the future. For that, I offer my most heartfelt thanks.

Best,
Daniel M. Hochbaum

August 19, 2012

Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13450 Far Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

To begin, I want to thank you for selecting me as an Equal Justice America Fellow. As I witnessed this summer, legal services organizations across the country are facing extraordinarily difficult economic times. My supervisor at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia (CLS) repeatedly told me that law students provide invaluable support to CLS who receives thousands of requests for legal assistance each year from low-income clients. By funding public interest fellowships, your organization provides equally invaluable support to students like me who are firmly committed to working as legal services attorneys upon graduation from law school.

This summer, I worked in the Employment Unit of CLS. While the unit is traditionally responsible for handling employment related cases, ranging from wage theft claims to discrimination claims, the unit was faced with a unique set of cases this summer. In response to a newspaper article highlighting Pennsylvania's First Judicial District's failure to collect criminal debts over the past twenty to thirty years, the court recently implemented a criminal debt collection plan. Under this plan, the court seeks to collect fines, costs, and forfeited bail from defendants in cases from as far back as the 1970s. This plan, however, presents a host of problems, including due process issues and the fact that many defendants who live on welfare (which disappeared for many as a result of state budget cuts) are simply unable to pay old debts, some of which total almost $200,000.

Some receiving letters from the court, others hearing about the court's plan through their social workers or shelters, clients began pouring into CLS asking for help to manage or reduce their criminal debt. The Employment Unit took on these cases because the court would not order the expungement of a defendant's arrest record unless the defendant paid his or her debts. Because criminal records are a barrier to employment, the unit found that the debt collection plan was inextricably linked to their clients' efforts to become gainfully employed.

As I worked on these cases, preparing motions to vacate bail judgments and representing clients at payment plan conferences where court officers would set up monthly payment plans for clients, it quickly became apparent to me and the unit that the court's policies were constantly changing. There is no established law for this process so the court's procedures would change on a daily basis. The attorneys in the unit had to develop their own legal filings and arguments in order to challenge the court's procedures when needed. As an intern, I spent a lot of time at the Criminal Justice Center meeting with court staff to learn new information about upcoming changes that directly impacted our clients' efforts to eliminate or alleviate their debt.

By way of example, I had one client who I began working with in the first week of my internship. My primary responsibility was to find out what happened to a bail refund that he was owed from a 2006 case on which he posted 10% of his bail to be released from prison. The bail refund meant more than just extra money in his pocket- it was money he needed to support him and his son while his application for SSI benefits was being processed; it was money he needed to get his life back on track after recently being released from prison. During my initial investigation, it appeared that the court was applying/crediting bail refunds from old cases to defendants' criminal debts. I repeatedly met with court staff to find out if this is what happened in my client's case, but I could not get a definitive answer. No one seemed to know what happened to my client's bail refund. I continued my investigation throughout the entire summer until the last two weeks of my internship when I made one last visit to the bail office and finally received an answer.

During the time I was searching for my client's money, the court was trying out several different processes as to how to collect money from defendants. The procedure for handling uncollected bail refunds changed several times over and I refused to leave until I could meet with someone in a position of power. With patience and persistence, I discovered that the city and the state were working together, unbeknownst to defendants, to move and manage defendants' uncollected bail refunds. I immediately reported the plan to my supervisors at CLS who put a stop to the plan as a result of significant due process and administrative concerns. Upon this discovery, I received notice that my client would finally receive his bail refund. In my last week of work, my client received his check from the First Judicial District in the mail.

In addition to "fines and costs" cases, I had the opportunity to work on several other types of cases, including employment discrimination cases and expungement cases. In one instance, I had the chance to follow a case through to its filing with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. I worked closely with the client to gather information pertinent to her claim for employment discrimination and wrote the complaint that my supervising attorney filed with the PHRC. This case was particularly memorable because my client was a young, struggling college student who was eager to move beyond her minor summary convictions which prevented her from obtaining employment. She commuted home from school every weekend to work in the area so she could be with and support her mother who was suffering from a debilitating disease. My client understood hardship first hand and it was a pleasure to work with her and help her put her past behind her so she could achieve her goal of becoming a lawyer.

My work this summer was made especially rewarding by the attorneys, paralegals, and administrative staff I had the pleasure to work closely with each day. My supervising attorneys were supportive, passionate, and provided extremely valuable feedback on my work. I developed friendships with many members of the staff who made my time at CLS that much more enjoyable. Working for one of the premier civil legal services attorneys in the country was also an experience for which I could not be more grateful.

I went into my internship firmly committed to a career in the public interest sector and my fellowship this summer just further cemented my passion for this type of work. I want to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to work at CLS this summer. I could not have asked for a better experience, filled with wonderful mentors, resilient clients, and finished with a solid understanding that we must continue to work hard to help those most in need. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Meredith Zeitzer
Temple Law Class of 2013

August 27, 2012

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I'm incredibly grateful to you and everyone associated with Equal Justice America for making both of my law school summers rewarding and productive. Last summer, a grant from EJA allowed me to work as an intern at the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Touched by the sheer number of victims of housing discrimination that I was able to help, I decided to use my 2L summer break to similarly serve the underprivileged. Thus, when I was offered the chance to work with Marie Kenyon at Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry in St. Louis, I accepted without hesitation.

My internship with CLAM was both eye-opening and productive. CLAM is an incredibly industrious clinic, as they advise and represent over 1,000 clients every year in domestic and immigration cases. Marie, my advisor, allowed me to work on over 50 cases over the course of the summer in varying capacities. Each one was memorable. My first involved a mother whose three-year-old daughter presented with severe bruising. Because she was suspicious that the daughter's father inflicted the contortions, the mother filed an order of protection to prevent him from contacting the child. As the guardians ad litem, our office was charged with protecting the interests of the child. After speaking with both parents and hearing their accounts of why the bruises appeared on the little girl, we made our recommendation. Ultimately, we believed that the father presented a danger, and the judge ordered that the child be protected for a year.

In that case, and many of my subsequent cases, I was able to represent our clients in court under Missouri Supreme Court Rule 13. Speaking in front of judges and lawyers was incredibly nerve-racking, but the intense need that our clients had for justice impelled me to push those feelings aside. And, by the end of the summer, I became an exceptional advocate. For example, one of my last cases was a contested divorce where the parties agreed on everything except the amount of child support that the husband had to pay to the wife. Essentially, the husband believed the number that we were asking for was oppressively high. So, I conducted direct and cross-examination, ultimately convincing the judge that our client was entitled to our proposed amount. The husband's argument was that because the money he made from commissions was inconsistent from paycheck to paycheck, the court should have low-balled his support obligation. I was proud that I was able to successfully use my powers of persuasion to debunk that argument. Moreover, this internship put me into contact with exceptional and inspiring public servants. My supervisor, Marie Kenyon, started working at the clinic over 20 years ago and has since put in an eye-popping amount of hours into the endeavor. Her work ethic, patience with law students and clients, and larger-than-life presence were an inspiration to me. Not only did my time at CLAM instill in me technical skills of lawyering, but it also provided a model of what type of advocate that I strive to become.

Thank you Mr. Ruben for giving me this opportunity. I promise that I'll make the Equal Justice America name proud as I make the transition from law student to lawyer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lawder
University of Michigan
Class of 2013

August 9, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First, I would like to sincerely thank you and Equal Justice America for the financial and moral support, which made it possible for me to work for the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP). Without your generosity, I would have been unable to accept the TCRP summer clerkship position.

I spent this summer working for TCRP's office in Austin, Texas. The mission of TCRP is to promote racial, social, and economic justice through litigation, education, and social services for low-income persons least able to defend themselves. My summer clerkship experience gave me an in-depth look into the TCRP mission while focusing on disability law, police accountability, and prisoner's rights.

Over the summer, I helped represent a number of clients with ADA litigation. Specifically, for one case I helped a young lady address architectural barriers she faced at a local Austin bar. Over a year ago, this wheelchair bound client sent a demand letter to this bar requesting accommodations because their restroom facility lacked grab bars, making it impossible for her to use their restrooms. A year later with no response from the bar, the client went back and found that the restrooms still lacked grabs bars, forcing her to travel one block down from the bar to find an accessible restroom. After this incident, the young lady contacted our organization and I began investigating the matter. I worked thoroughly with the client to develop the facts of her case and did extensive research to determine the liability of the local Austin bar. With the official approval from my supervising attorney, I began preparing a petition and preparing discovery for the client's case. Even though my assignments were common tasks for a law clerk, the client was beyond appreciative for my work because she was finally getting justice for the traumatizing experience she faced. This case taught me a great deal about trial preparation but also taught me about the many challenges the disabled community faces. It is without a doubt an experience that I will always remember.

While I spent most of my summer working on ADA cases, I did have the opportunity to engage in community outreach work. For example, a local grassroots organization contacted TCRP and asked us to give a "Know Your Rights" presentation for the Austin community. As a result, I began researching and preparing basic "Know Your Rights" information and created a production that was informative and entertaining. After the presentation, many members of the community thanked us for taking the time to provide the information because they were completely unaware of their civil rights. It was deeply rewarding to know that our work was empowering and helping the local Austin community.

I have long been committed to public interest law since the beginning of my law school career. However, my work with the Texas Civil Rights Project has solidified that commitment and increased my dedication to providing legal services for the underrepresented. I am tremendously grateful to Equal Justice America for providing me with the support to pursue this opportunity with TCRP. I have gained invaluable education from this experience and plan to continue to follow my passion for public interest law. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

Denise D. Hernandez
Texas Tech University, School of Law
Class of 2013

August 18, 2012

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I spent this summer at Greater Boston Legal Services (GLBS) in the Elder, Health, and Disability Law Unit, successfully advocating for low-income, elderly clients regarding denials of subsidized housing, disability benefits, social security, and food stamps. I am so grateful for your funding, because it allowed me to spend this summer doing work I absolutely love, work that is challenging, interesting, and meaningful. Work that matters.

One of my first clients taught me how some landlords and even our government will act cruelly and illegally without any evident concern for the lives and livelihoods they ruin. This elderly woman was a breast cancer patient living in subsidized housing, where her rent is 30 percent of her income and the government pays the other portion to make the landlord whole. This summer, she had to have to two major surgeries for the cancer, and the recovery time was 12 weeks. Early in June, her landlord raised the rent and the government refused to pay more. Thus, even though she had never missed a rent payment, the landlord tried to evict an elderly cancer patient while she was recovering from two major surgeries.

Fortunately, the law was firmly on her side. I wrote letters and made phone calls to the government and the landlord explaining their obligations under disability law, landlord/tenant law, and subsidized housing law. The government rethought its position and the client signed a new lease, enabling her to continue living in her home, paying the same rent, for the next year at least. This was one of my first cases, and I was shocked at how quickly I was able to help the client. Even though the law was firmly on my side, I assumed the landlord and housing authority would just ignore it. To my delight, I was wrong.

A different client's case, however, proved to be painfully slow, and served as a forceful reminder of how important patient and persistent advocacy is. This elderly man had health insurance, but when he was out of the country, he broke his hip and had hip replacement surgery. His insurance (Medicaid) would not pay for a surgery out of the country, so his son paid for the surgery, and the client signed a promissory note to pay his son $200 per month until the debt was repaid. When he got home, the client applied for food stamps. When calculating a food stamp benefit, the government considers applicants' other expenses. Medical expenses are deducted, but debts to a third party are not. My client's $200 monthly payments were classified as debt to a third party, like a credit card company, not a medical expense, like hospital payments. This meant he and his wife received about $150 less per month in food stamps. We appealed this decision.

Massachusetts regulations state that they must decide an appeal within 90 days of the appeal being filed, but at 100 days after the appeal filing, the government had not even scheduled a hearing. After many letters and phone calls to the food stamp agency in which I repeatedly explained that they had delayed to the point of unlawfulness and took them through the client's legal appeal, the government decided to reinstate the client's food stamps. He had been without that money for months, and so received back benefits, i.e. all the food stamp benefits he should have been receiving and didn't. Unfortunately, one cannot eat retroactively, so back benefits for food stamps are of little comfort, but perhaps, the client cheerfully told me, he and his family would enjoy a summer lobster dinner!

Unlike the first case I explained, this one took almost the entirety of my summer. I spoke with dozens of people, passed from department to department. Like the first case, though, it took the strength of my legal arguments combined with polite and firmly persistent advocacy to win.

Unfortunately, the best advocate that low-income clients are offered is often some version of me: a kid in her early 20s figuring it out as I go along. The best I can offer is a willingness to work hard, figure out the best legal argument I can, and persistently advocate for the client with every mechanism I can find. To my surprise, that combination of creativity and passion, expertly guided by an delightfully bright, knowledgeable, and approachable team of attorneys, can change people's lives in deep, meaningful ways. This summer has given me an incredible opportunity to do work I love and work that matters, and it would not have been possible without Equal Justice America funding. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McIntyre

Elizabeth McIntyre
Boston University School of Law
Class of 2014

May 17, 2012

Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II- Suite 204
13540 E. Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thanks to Equal Justice America, I was able to continue my internship at Essex – Newark Legal Services ("ENLS") advocating for the low income residents of Essex County.

As a legal intern in the Housing and Income Maintenance Unit ("HIM"), I continued to serve as a primary case-handler providing representation and advice for clients facing issues such as government benefit terminations, denials, and delays, homelessness, relocation, and domestic violence. As securing benefits such as Emergency Assistance/Temporary Rental Assistance is often a pre-requisite in preventing or curing evictions in non – payment of rent cases, I also conducted research, prepared legal documents, and counseled clients in non- payment of rent proceedings.

My experience this semester proved to unlike others for several reasons. First, the client population I encountered greatly expanded from individuals and families facing homelessness to homeless people literally living on the street with nowhere to go or nothing to eat. Further, I also noticed an increase in clients who were both disabled and homeless – for instance, I had one client who was terminated from Emergency Assistance and as a result, "lived" at Penn Station while she suffered from cancer. As if the obstacles our clients faced were not bad enough, ENLS experienced two massive budget cuts, with one occurring at the start of this semester. While these budget cuts not only threatened the long term foundation of legal services but also our short term ability to advocate for clients in need. It was this moment that I realized the urgency of advocacy for my clients and the need to use the law in its full potential to protect clients at all cost.

Accordingly, one of the highlights this semester was being able to teach my client how to effectively represent himself at an administrative fair hearing, when our office did not have the resources to do so. The client, who also had a disability, experienced a delay of benefits without sufficient notice. After weeks of counsel and advice, the client attended his fair hearing pro se and received a favorable decision. I was not only able to explain the applicable law, but once I encouraged the client to look at the regulations (which are publically accessible), he was also able to foster an interpretation that helped him win his case. This was one of the most impactful experiences because it revealed that in some instances, equipping individuals with support, hope, encouragement, and an education of the law, can empower them in the end.

My entire experience at ENLS has inspired me and validated my desires to pursue a public interest career, preferably in direct services. While I've learned a great deal in my year at ENLS, I look forward to continuing my educational experiences in the public interest field. Once again, thank you for affording me one of the best experiences of my legal career.

Sincerely,

Chanell Johnson
Candidate for J.D., 2013
Rutgers School of Law – Newark

August 14, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan Ruben,

I had an amazing summer at The Family Center and I am so thankful that Equal Justice America is around to support these opportunities in the non-profit sector. The Family Center is a full service non-profit organization. It provides health, social, and legal services for families that have been impacted by HIV/AIDS and cancer. It also provides services for non-biological caregivers. It is a direct service agency that primarily works with low income individuals. A lot of the legal assistance revolves around correcting benefit allocations, housing matters, advanced directives, and family law (guardianship and divorce).

I never thought that I would find my place within the legal profession at an organization that dealt with people who are impacted by serious illnesses. When applying to legal jobs, I did not imagine myself asking people about their health, how they came into contact with diseases, and how they were providing for their family. As the internship went on, I found myself more comfortable with clients and better able to ask the questions that would allow the attorneys to render the best advice possible to the clients. Even though interactions with clients posed potentially emotional situations, it was great to know that I had a part in our agency making a positive difference in what turned out to be very difficult times in the lives of some of our clients.

My day to day tasks varied. I would talk to clients, help the lawyers find information or draft documents, and go to various courts to file documents. It's a small office, so the lawyers depended on the work that the interns did for the organization. Sometimes the attorneys would give me independence and I would be the one directly working with the client. Often times, I would be the one asking for information, meeting with the clients, and following up with them if they had any questions. It was great being in an environment where I was entrusted with taking care of clients' needs while knowing that I had the support of the attorneys if I took a misstep or didn't know exactly what I was doing.

The projects were definitely challenging and satisfying. The staff attorneys were passionate about helping their clients and often that desire turned into research projects that took me from the Connecticut Surrogate's Court to the Chinese Consulate. Whether a potential client was able to receive services from our agency, or needed to look elsewhere, The Family Center worked to guide him into making decisions that were in his best interests given the circumstances. Although I may not have always found an answer to every quandary, these exercises showed me how important it was to take into consideration the needs and desires of the clients. I not only became more familiar with the law, I also became aware of what it means to efficiently serve a client.

The Family Center provided me with a variety of legal and personal learning experiences. It was exciting to learn about the areas of the law that clients who were served by The Family Center had to deal with and how it impacted their everyday experiences. In addition, it was a humbling experience. Not only did I see people coming to terms with their circumstances, I also observed how clients volunteered to care for family members who had been impacted by tragedy. This summer, I not only learned what it meant to be a Lawyer with integrity, but also what it meant to be an honorable person.

In closing, my summer at The Family Center has not only prepared me to talk to potential clients about sensitive information, it has also encouraged me to be a more compassionate, patient, and caring person. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to work with this organization. It is great that Equal Justice America encourages law students to pursue these avenues of interest and I hope other law students take advantage of this opportunity.

Thank You,

Jennifer Anderson
Columbia Law School
Class 2014

Financial Statements

Report of Independent Auditors

IRS Form 990

Section 4

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2012

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 20112

MICHAEL W. HULTZAPPLE, CPA, LTD

1913 Stuart Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone (804) 677-4343

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Equal Justice America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Equal Justice America, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) as of June 30, 2012, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Equal Justice America, Inc. as of June 30, 2012, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

MW Hultzapple

Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA
October 15, 2012

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	$ 78,816
Contributions receivable	194,836
Total Current Assets	273,652
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 2)	29,801
Less: accumulated depreciation	(29,801)
Net property and equipment	-
Total Assets	$ 273,652

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accrued expenses and accounts payable	$ 990
Grants payable	255,000
Total Liabilities	255,990
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	17,662
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$ 273,652

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Public Support and Revenue		
Public support:		
Contributions	$ 1,217,981	
Revenue:		
Interest Income	537	
Total Public Support and Revenue		$ 1,218,518
Expenses		
Program services	852,866	
Management and general expenses	135,101	
Fund raising expenses	225,368	
Total Expenses		1,213,335
Public support and revenue in excess of expenses		$ 5,183
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		12,479
Net Assets at End of Year		$ 17,662

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Public support and revenue in excess of expenses		$ 5,183
Adjustment To Reconcile to Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses		
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Increase in accrued expenses and accounts payable	(770)	
Increase in contributions receivable	(37,647)	
Increase in grants payable	20,000	
Total adjustments		(18,417)
Net cash provided by operating activities		(13,234)
Net decrease in cash during the year		(13,234)
Cash at July 1, 2011		92,050
Cash at June 30, 2012		$ 78,816

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Program Expenses:	
Grants	$ 753,330
Program Administration:	
Computer	855
Executive Director's Salary	32,833
Executive Director's Payroll Taxes	2,512
Executive Director's Benefits	5,604
Employee Benefits	4,625
Miscellaneous	327
Occupency	355
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	390
Salaries	39,766
Payroll Service	478
Payroll Taxes	3,042
Printing and Postage	727
Supplies	411
Telephone	1,965
Training	646
Total	$ 852,866
Management and General Expenses:	
Accounting	6,109
Executive Director's Salary	32,833
Executive Director's Benefits	5,604
Executive Payroll Taxes	2,512
Bank charges	1,039
Computer	855
Employee Benefits	6,938
Insurance	1,068
Miscellaneous	491
Occupency	355
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	585
Salaries	59,649
Payroll Service	718
Payroll Taxes	4,563
Printing & Postage	1,454

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses (continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Management and General Expenses:	
State Registration Fees	2,100
Supplies	617
Telephone	1,965
Training	646
Total	$ 135,101

Fund Raising Expenses:	
Computer	855
Credit Card Fees	24,186
Employee Benefits	11,564
Executive Director's Salary	32,833
Executive Director's Benefits	5,604
Executive Director's Payroll Taxes	2,512
Fund Raising	881
Mailing List	13,265
Miscellaneous	819
Occupency	355
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	975
Salaries	99,415
Payroll Service	1,196
Payroll Taxes	7,606
Printing & Postage	5,089
Supplies	1,029
Telephone	9,171
Training	3,013
	$ 225,368

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012

Note 1: Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

Equal Justice America, Inc. (the Organization) is a not-for-profit organization that provides grants to legal service organizations that deliver civil legal assistance to the poor. The Board of Directors and management employees of the Organization acknowledge that, to the best of their ability, all assets received have been used for the purpose for which they were contributed, or have been accumulated to allow management to conduce the operations of the Organization as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Support and Expenses. Contributions received and unconditional promises to give are measured at their fair values and are reported as an increase in net assets. The Organization reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or if they are designed as support for future periods. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activity as net assets released from restrictions. Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as unrestricted support. Currently, the Organization only has unrestricted net assets.

Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

Donated Services. A substantial number of unpaid volunteers have made significant contributions of their time to assist in the Organization's programs; however, the donated services are not reflected in the financial statements since the services do not require specialized skills.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents. Cash consists of cash held in a checking account and money market account.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012

Note 1. (continued)

Income Taxes. The organization is a not-for-profit corporation whose revenue is derived from contributions from individuals, corporations, and other non-profit entities and is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

Fixed Assets. Acquisitions of fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets and computed on the straight-line method, generally 5 to 7 years.

Note 2: Property and Equipment

Property and equipment, is comprised of the following:

Furniture and equipment	$ 1,185
Machinery and equipment	28,616
	29,801
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(29,801)
	$

Note 3: Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs, fund-raising, and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain cost have been allocated among the programs and fund-raising activities benefited.

Form **990**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

▶The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2011 calendar year, or tax year beginning 7/1/2011 **, and ending** 6/30/2012

B Check if applicable:	**C** Name of organization EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC	**D Employer identification number**
☐ Address change	Doing Business As EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA	13-3708596
☐ Name change	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) / Room/suite	**E** Telephone number
☐ Initial return	13540 E. BOUNDARY ROAD, BLDG 2 / 204	(804) 744-4200
☐ Terminated	City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4	
☐ Amended return	MIDLOTHIAN VA 23112	**G** Gross receipts $ 1,218,518
☐ Application pending	**F** Name and address of principal officer: DAN RUBEN 13540 E. BOUNDARY ROAD, SUITE 204, MIDLOTHIAN	**H(a)** Is this a group return for affiliates? ☐ Yes ☒ No **H(b)** Are all affiliates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)

I Tax-exempt status: ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) ( ) ◀ (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527

J Website: ▶ WWW.EQUALJUSTICE AMERICA.ORG

H(c) Group exemption number ▶

K Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶ **L** Year of formation: 1992 **M** State of legal domicile: VA

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: Provides grants to legal serivce organizations that deliver legal assistance to the poor and disadvantaged. The grants are used to sponsor fellowships for law school students.

2 Check this box ▶☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.

3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	5
4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	5
5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2011 (Part V, line 2a)	5	21
6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	10
7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0

			Prior Year	Current Year
Revenue	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	1,118,310	1,217,981
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	0
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	702	537
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0	0
	12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1,119,012	1,218,518
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	708,604	753,330
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	322,121	360,015
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 225,368		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	86,343	99,990
	18	Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	1,117,068	1,213,335
	19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	1,944	5,183

			Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	249,239	273,652
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	236,760	255,990
	22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	12,479	17,662

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer Date

Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check ☐ if self-employed	PTIN
Michael Hultzapple		10/16/2012		P00645500
Firm's name ▶ Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA, LTD		Firm's EIN ▶ 31-1743123		
Firm's address ▶ 1913 Stuart Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220		Phone no. (804) 677-4343		

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III **Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III . . . . ☐

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

GRANTS TO LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THE DELIVER LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED. THE GRANTS ARE USED TO SPONSOR FELLOWSHIPS FOR LAW STUDENTS.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? . . . . ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? . . . . ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses $ 852,866 including grants of $ 753,330) (Revenue $ 0)

GRANTS TO LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED. PROVIDED GRANTS TO 138 ORGANIZATIONS

4b (Code:) (Expenses $ 0 including grants of $ 0) (Revenue $ 0)

4c (Code:) (Expenses $ 0 including grants of $ 0) (Revenue $ 0)

4d Other program services. (Describe in Schedule O.)

(Expenses $ 0 including grants of $ 0) (Revenue $ 0)

4e **Total program service expenses** ▶ 852,866

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Line	Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule A*	1	X	
2	Is the organization required to complete *Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors* (see instructions)?	2		X
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I*	3		X
4	**Section 501(c)(3) organizations.** Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II*	4		X
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? *If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III*	5		
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I*	6		X
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II*	7		X
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III*	8		X
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV*	9		X
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V*	10		X
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.			
a	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.*	11a	X	
b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII.*	11b		X
c	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII.*	11c		X
d	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX.*	11d		X
e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.*	11e		X
f	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X*	11f		X
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII*	12a	X	
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? *If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional*	12b		X
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule E*	13		X
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a		X
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than $10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at $100,000 or more? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV*	14b		X
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than $5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV*	15		X
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than $5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? *If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV*	16		X
17	Did the organization report a total of more than $15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)*	17		X
18	Did the organization report more than $15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II*	18		X
19	Did the organization report more than $15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III*	19		X
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? *If "Yes," complete Schedule H*	20a		X
b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b		

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules *(continued)*

			Yes	No
21	Did the organization report more than $5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II*	21	X	
22	Did the organization report more than $5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? *If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III*	22		
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J*	23		X
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than $100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? *If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25*	24a		X
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	**Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.** Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I*	25a		X
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I*	25b		X
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II*	26		X
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III*	27		X
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	28a		X
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	28b		X
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? *If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV*	28c		X
29	Did the organization receive more than $25,000 in non-cash contributions? *If "Yes," complete Schedule M*	29		X
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? *If "Yes," complete Schedule M*	30		X
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? *If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I*	31		X
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? *If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II*	32		X
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I*	33		X
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1*	34		X
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a		X
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2*	35b		X
36	**Section 501(c)(3) organizations.** Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2*	36		X
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? *If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI*	37		X
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11 and 19? **Note.** All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	38	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V . . . . ☐

				Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable . . .	1a	21		
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable . . .	1b	0		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners? . . .		1c	X	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return . .	2a	21		
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?		2b	X	
	Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to *e-file*. (see instructions)				
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more during the year? . . .		3a		X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? *If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O* . . .		3b		
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? . . .		4a		X
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶				
	See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.				
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year? . . .		5a		X
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? . . .		5b		X
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T? . . .		5c		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than $100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible? . . .		6a		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible? . . .		6b		
7	**Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).**				
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of $75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor? . . .		7a		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided? . . .		7b		
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282? . . .		7c		X
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year . . .	7d			
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract? . . .		7e		X
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? . . .		7f		X
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required? . .		7g		
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C? .		7h		
8	**Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations.** Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year? . . .		8		
9	**Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.**				
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966? . . .		9a		
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person? . . .		9b		
10	**Section 501(c)(7) organizations.** Enter:				
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12 . . .	10a			
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities . . .	10b			
11	**Section 501(c)(12) organizations.** Enter:				
a	Gross income from members or shareholders . . .	11a			
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.) . . .	11b			
12a	**Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.** Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041? . . .		12a		
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year . . .	12b			
13	**Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.**				
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? . . .		13a		
	Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.				
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans . . .	13b			
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand . . .	13c			
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year? . . .		14a		X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? *If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O* . . .		14b		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI . . . [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Line	Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year . . . **1a** 5. If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.			
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent . . . **1b** 5			
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2		X
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3		X
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4		X
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5		X
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6		X
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a		X
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b		X
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:			
a	The governing body?	8a	X	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	X	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? *If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O*	9		X

Section B. Policies *(This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)*

		Line	Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	X	
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.			
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? *If "No," go to line 13*	12a	X	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	X	
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? *If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done*	12c	X	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	X	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	X	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?			
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official.	15a	X	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization. If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).	15b		X
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► See Attached Statement

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.

[ ] Own website [ ] Another's website [X] Upon request

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public.

20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: ► Dan Ruben (804) 744-4200

13540 E. Boundary Road, Bld 2, Suite 204, Midlothian, VA 23112

Part VII **Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII . . . . ☐

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than $100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than $100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than $10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (describe hours for related organizations in Schedule O)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee): Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former	(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
(1) Sonia Marquez Director	2.00	X						0	0	0
(2) Richard Porter Director	2.00	X						0	0	0
(3) Elise Rivers Secretary	2.00	X						0	0	0
(4) David Santacroce President	2.00	X						0	0	0
(5) Larry Zabar Treasurer	2.00	X						0	0	0
(6) Dan Ruben Exec Director	40.00				X			98,500	0	0
(7)										
(8)										
(9)										
(10)										
(11)										
(12)										
(13)										
(14)										

Part VII **Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees** *(continued)*

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (describe hours for related organizations in Schedule O)	(C) Position: Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former	(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
(15)										
(16)										
(17)										
(18)										
(19)										
(20)										
(21)										
(22)										
(23)										
(24)										
(25)										

		(D)	(E)	(F)
1b	**Sub-total** . . . . . . ▶	98,500	0	0
c	**Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A** . . . ▶	0	0	0
d	**Total (add lines 1b and 1c)**. . . . . ▶	98,500	0	0

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than $100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization ▶ 0

			Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any **former** officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*	3		X
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than $150,000? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*	4		X
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person*	5		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶ 0

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a	0				
	b Membership dues	1b	0				
	c Fundraising events	1c	0				
	d Related organizations	1d	0				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e	0				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1,217,981				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f:	$	0				
	h **Total.** Add lines 1a–1f ▶			1,217,981			
Program Service Revenue		Business Code					
	2a			0			
	b			0			
	c			0			
	d			0			
	e			0			
	f All other program service revenue			0			
	g **Total.** Add lines 2a–2f ▶			0			
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) ▶			537			
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶			0			
	5 Royalties ▶			0			
		(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
	6a Gross rents						
	b Less: rental expenses						
	c Rental income or (loss)	0	0				
	d Net rental income or (loss) ▶			0			
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities 0	(ii) Other 0				
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	0	0				
	c Gain or (loss)	0	0				
	d Net gain or (loss) ▶			0			
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including $ 0 of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a	0				
	b Less: direct expenses	b	0				
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events ▶			0			
	9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19.	a	0				
	b Less: direct expenses	b	0				
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities ▶			0			
	10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a	0				
	b Less: cost of goods sold	b	0				
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory ▶			0			
	Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code					
	11a			0			
	b			0			
	c			0			
	d All other revenue			0			
	e **Total.** Add lines 11a–11d ▶			0			
	12 **Total revenue.** See instructions. ▶			1,218,518	0	0	0

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX . . . ☐

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States. See Part IV, line 21	753,330	753,330		
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States. See Part IV, line 22	0			
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	0			
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0			
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	98,499	32,833	32,833	32,833
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
7 Other salaries and wages	198,830	39,766	59,649	99,415
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	0			
9 Other employee benefits	39,939	10,229	12,542	17,168
10 Payroll taxes	22,747	5,554	7,075	10,118
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	0			
b Legal	0			
c Accounting	6,109		6,109	
d Lobbying	0			
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	0			
f Investment management fees	0			
g Other	3,440	487	1,757	1,196
12 Advertising and promotion	0			
13 Office expenses	25,259	3,493	4,621	17,145
14 Information technology	2,565	855	855	855
15 Royalties	0			
16 Occupancy	16,065	5,355	5,355	5,355
17 Travel	0			
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	0			
20 Interest	0			
21 Payments to affiliates	0			
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	0	0	0	0
23 Insurance	1,068		1,068	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a Credit Card Fees	24,186			24,186
b Mailing Lists	13,265			13,265
c State Registration Fees	2,100		2,100	
d Training	0	0	0	0
e All other expenses	5,933	964	1,137	3,832
25 **Total functional expenses.** Add lines 1 through 24e	1,213,335	852,866	135,101	225,368
26 **Joint costs.** Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ▶ ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

			(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing	92,050	1	78,816
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		2	
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net	157,189	3	194,836
	4	Accounts receivable, net	0	4	0
	5	Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6	Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions)		6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net	0	7	0
	8	Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D — 10a: 29,801			
	b	Less: accumulated depreciation — 10b: 29,801	0	10c	0
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities	0	11	0
	12	Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11	0	12	0
	13	Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	0	13	0
	14	Intangible assets	0	14	0
	15	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	0	15	0
	16	**Total assets.** Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	249,239	16	273,652
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,760	17	990
	18	Grants payable	235,000	18	255,000
	19	Deferred revenue		19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22	Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	0	23	0
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	0	24	0
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	0	25	0
	26	**Total liabilities.** Add lines 17 through 25	236,760	26	255,990
Net Assets or Fund Balances		**Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ [X] and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.**			
	27	Unrestricted net assets	12,479	27	17,662
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets		29	
		Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ [ ] and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances	12,479	33	17,662
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	249,239	34	273,652

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI . . . . . ☐

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,218,518
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	1,213,335
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	5,183
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	12,479
5	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	5	
6	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3, 4, and 5 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	6	17,662

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII . . . . . ☐

			Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other ________ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.			
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?	2a		X
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	2b	X	
c	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?	2c	X	
	If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.			
d	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: ☒ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis			
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?	3a		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.	3b		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC

Employer identification number
13-3708596

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**

2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E.)

3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**

4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:

5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)

6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**

7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)

8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)

9 ☐ An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)

10 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**

11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.

a ☐ Type I **b** ☐ Type II **c** ☐ Type III–Functionally integrated **d** ☐ Type III–Other

e ☐ By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).

f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box . . . . . ☐

g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

		Yes	No
(i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?	**11g(i)**		
(ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?	**11g(ii)**		
(iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?	**11g(iii)**		

h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

	(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–9 above or IRC section **(see instructions)**)	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document? Yes	(iv) No	(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support? Yes	(v) No	(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.? Yes	(vi) No	(vii) Amount of support
(A)										0
(B)										0
(C)										0
(D)										0
(E)										0
Total										0

Part II **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	1,254,636	1,101,401	1,042,172	1,118,310	1,217,981	5,734,500
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf	0	0				0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge	0	0				0
4 **Total.** Add lines 1 through 3	1,254,636	1,101,401	1,042,172	1,118,310	1,217,981	5,734,500
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 **Public support.** Subtract line 5 from line 4.						5,734,500

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	1,254,636	1,101,401	1,042,172	1,118,310	1,217,981	5,734,500
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	1,875	1,256	925	702	537	5,295
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)	0	0				0
11 **Total support.** Add lines 7 through 10						5,739,795

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) . . . 12

13 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** . . . ▶ ☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2011 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)) . . . 14 99.91%

15 Public support percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 . . . 15 99.88%

16a **33 1/3% support test—2011.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . ▶ ☒

b **33 1/3% support test—2010.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . ▶ ☐

17a **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. . . . ▶ ☐

b **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2010.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . ▶ ☐

18 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions . . . ▶ ☐

Part III **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)**
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						0
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						0
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						0
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
6 **Total.** Add lines 1 through 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						0
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of $5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						0
c Add lines 7a and 7b	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 **Public support** (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						0

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	0	0	0	0	0	0
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						0
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						0
c Add lines 10a and 10b	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						0
13 **Total support.** (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	0	0	0	0	0	0

14 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ▶ ☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15	Public support percentage for 2011 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	0.00%
16	Public support percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	0.00%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17	Investment income percentage for **2011** (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.00%
18	Investment income percentage from **2010** Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.00%

19a **33 1/3% support tests—2011.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☐

b **33 1/3% support tests—2010.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ ☐

20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶ ☐

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.

▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization	Employer identification number
EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC	13-3708596

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

		(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year		
2	Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3	Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4	Aggregate value at end of year		

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).
- ☐ Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)
- ☐ Protection of natural habitat
- ☐ Preservation of open space
- ☐ Preservation of an historically important land area
- ☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

			Held at the End of the Tax Year
a	Total number of conservation easements	2a	
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b	
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c	
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d	

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ $

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9 In Part XIV, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIV, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ $

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ $

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:

a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ $

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ $

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):

a ☐ Public exhibition
b ☐ Scholarly research
c ☐ Preservation for future generations
d ☐ Loan or exchange programs
e ☐ Other

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? . . . . ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? . . . ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table:

		Amount
c Beginning balance	1c	0
d Additions during the year	1d	
e Distributions during the year	1e	
f Ending balance	1f	0

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV.

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	0	0	0		
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance	0	0	0	0	

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

a Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ ______ %

b Permanent endowment ▶ ______ %

c Temporarily restricted endowment ▶ ______ %

The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

		Yes	No
(i) unrelated organizations	3a(i)		
(ii) related organizations	3a(ii)		
b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?	3b		

4 Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	0	0		0
b Buildings	0	0	0	0
c Leasehold improvements	0	0	0	0
d Equipment	0	29,801	29,801	0
e Other	0	0	0	0
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. *(Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)* ▶				0

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives	0	
(2) Closely-held equity interests	0	
(3) Other	0	
(A)	0	
(B)	0	
(C)	0	
(D)	0	
(E)	0	
(F)	0	
(G)	0	
(H)	0	
(I)	0	
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.)* ▶	0	

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment type	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)	0	
(2)	0	
(3)	0	
(4)	0	
(5)	0	
(6)	0	
(7)	0	
(8)	0	
(9)	0	
(10)	0	
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.)* ▶	0	

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	0
(2)	0
(3)	0
(4)	0
(5)	0
(6)	0
(7)	0
(8)	0
(9)	0
(10)	0
	0
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.)* ▶	0

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	0
(2)	0
(3)	0
(4)	0
(5)	0
(6)	0
(7)	0
(8)	0
(9)	0
(10)	0
(11)	0
Total. *(Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.)* ▶	0

2. FIN 48 (ASC 740) Footnote. In Part XIV, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740).

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Audited Financial Statements

1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,218,518
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	1,213,335
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	5,183
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5	
6	Investment expenses	6	
7	Prior period adjustments	7	
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	8	
9	Total adjustments (net). Add lines 4 through 8	9	0
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per audited financial statements. Combine lines 3 and 9	10	5,183

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements			1	1,218,518
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:				
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a			
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b			
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c			
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d			
e	Add lines **2a** through **2d**			2e	0
3	Subtract line **2e** from line **1**			3	1,218,518
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line **1**:				
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a			
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b			
c	Add lines **4a** and **4b**			4c	0
5	Total revenue. Add lines **3** and **4c.** *(This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)*			5	1,218,518

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements			1	1,213,335
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:				
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a			
b	Prior year adjustments	2b			
c	Other losses	2c			
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d			
e	Add lines **2a** through **2d**			2e	0
3	Subtract line **2e** from line **1**			3	1,213,335
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line **1:**				
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a			
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b			
c	Add lines **4a** and **4b**			4c	0
5	Total expenses. Add lines **3** and **4c.** *(This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)*			5	1,213,335

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, line 8; Part XII, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Part XIV **Supplemental Information** *(continued)*

SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments, and Individuals in the United States

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

▶ Attach to Form 990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization: EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC

Employer identification number: 13-3708596

Part I **General Information on Grants and Assistance**

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? . . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than $5,000. Check this box if no one recipient received more than $5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed . . . . . ▶ [ ]

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) See Attached Lising			0	0			
(2)			0	0			
(3)			0	0			
(4)			0	0			
(5)			0	0			
(6)			0	0			
(7)			0	0			
(8)			0	0			
(9)			0	0			
(10)			0	0			
(11)			0	0			
(12)			0	0			

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . . ▶ 75

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . . ▶ 0

Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 22. Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

	(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance
1		0	0	0		
2		0	0	0		
3		0	0	0		
4		0	0	0		
5		0	0	0		
6		0	0	0		
7		0	0	0		

Part IV Supplemental Information.

Complete this part to provide the information required in Part I, line 2, and any other additional information.

Part I Line 2 EJA Fellowship recipients are required to answer a questionnaire and write a letter about their fellowship experience.

Their supervisors also write a letter.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization	Employer identification number
EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC	13-3708596

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line 11b Prior to filing Form 990, it is distributed to the Directors for review.

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line 12c Direcctos are required to disclose information whenever there is a change in their status. The Executive Director review any disclosures and the policies annually.

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line 15b The Executive Director's compensation in reviewed by the Board, an independent body, annually.

Name of the organization	Employer identification number
EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC	13-3708596

Part VI, Line 17 (990) - States with Which a Copy of this Form 990 is Required to be Filed

	Armed Forces the Americas
	Armed Forces Europe
	Alaska
	Alabama
	Armed Forces Pacific
	Arkansas
	American Samoa
X	Arizona
X	California
	Colorado
X	Connecticut
X	District of Columbia
	Delaware
X	Florida
	Federated States of Micronesia
X	Georgia
	Guam
	Hawaii
	Iowa
	Idaho
X	Illinois
	Indiana
	Kansas
	Kentucky
X	Louisiana
X	Massachusetts
X	Maryland
X	Maine
	Marshall Islands
X	Michigan
X	Minnesota
	Missouri
	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
	Mississippi
	Montana
X	North Carolina
	North Dakota
	Nebraska
	New Hampshire
X	New Jersey
X	New Mexico
	Nevada
X	New York
X	Ohio
	Oklahoma
X	Oregon
X	Pennsylvania
	Puerto Rico
	Palau
X	Rhode Island
	South Carolina
	South Dakota
	Tennessee
	Texas
	Utah
X	Virginia
	U.S. Virgin Islands
	Vermont
X	Washington
X	Wisconsin
	West Virginia
	Wyoming