



## **ASIA PORTER**

### **KING CHILD HEALTH FELLOW**

**UNDERGRAD:** WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY OF ST. LOUIS

**GRAD SCHOOL:** UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

**KING CHILD HEALTH FELLOW:** AUGUST 2022 - MAY 2024

#### **Why did you want to do the King Fellowship?**

I was excited about the King Child Health Fellowship because it allowed me to work directly with clients on legal work as well as advocate for high-level policy reform. I also had a particular interest in child and maternal health, so I found the work to be rewarding and impactful.

#### **Did you have a typical routine during your fellowship, or did it vary from day-to-day?**

Because my role encompassed both direct service work with clients and policy work, I often structured my day around my clients and their availability. Understandably, clients were not always available to take a phone call first thing in the morning, so I liked to start my day with policy and advocacy work, which could look like connecting with nonprofit partners or writing policy briefs or research articles, and then start reaching out to clients in the late morning or early afternoon.

#### **What were some skills you took away/learned from the fellowship?**

Medicaid, like many health care laws and programs, is extremely technical. My job as an advocate was to not only know the Medicaid rules but also, and more importantly, to be able to explain it to the beneficiary on the other side of the phone. The King Child Health Fellowship taught me how to consume large amounts of information (both from the regulations and from my client), understand what was relevant to my client's issue, determine a path forward, and communicate this all to my client in a way that was intelligible.

#### **How did your time as a fellow shape you into who you are today and the work that you do?**

I definitely think my fellowship made me a more competitive law school applicant. Today, most law students, especially at T-14s, have work experience. This work experience not only helps to give students an idea of what type of lawyer they may want to be in the future, but it also helps them to effectively communicate this vision to a law school admissions team. While I already knew that I wanted to work in health law prior to joining TJC, my fellowship gave me concrete experiences to draw from in my essays and interviews that were directly transferable to the work I would be expected to do as a law student and later attorney. I imagine that it is not common that applicants have experience working directly with clients, filing administrative appeals, and communicating with general counsel. In fact, many clinics offered by law schools aim to instill this exact skillset. To be able to say that I already had that exposure to these things and to be able to point to my growth as an advocate was invaluable.

#### **Do you have any advice for current and future TJC fellows?**

Explore your interests! Prior to joining TJC, I was really interested in doulas and their positive impact on health outcomes for Black mothers and babies. During my time as the King Child Health Fellow, Tennessee was exploring Medicaid reimbursement for doula services and had passed legislation to more closely study a possible program, reimbursement models, etc. Nobody told me to pursue this lane, but I had a personal interest in the subject area, and it aligned with TJC's mission, so the organization supported me in my pursuit. Feel free to get creative and go down paths that you believe should be explored.