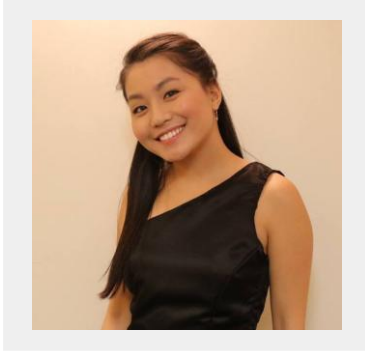




## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Elizabeth Idefonso  
**Law School:** Brooklyn Law School  
**EJA Fellowship:** Safe Horizon  
Domestic Violence Law Project

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### Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#) Over the past few weeks, I have worked with [Safe Horizon](#) conducting research, drafting uncontested divorce papers, screening clients for services, and providing information, referrals and brief safety planning. I am grateful to work with an organization that supports victims/survivors of Domestic Violence who also face numerous other challenges such as financial barriers and the related frustrations that accompany litigating in Family Court.

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### Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

Since my last [Equal Justice America](#) update, I have been conducting research for clients and later meeting with them to assist them with their family law matters (relocation petition, divorce papers etc.) One of my favorite aspects of working has always been direct client services and to be able to contribute my research and knowledge of caselaw has been especially fulfilling.

[Safe Horizon](#) Domestic Violence Law Project represents and advises survivors/victims of Domestic Violence in cases involving custody, visitation, divorce, orders of protection, and child support.



## Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

### [#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

One of the unique aspects of interning for Safe Horizon is the opportunity to appear on the record in court and advocating for clients. Being able to advocate for clients not only via research and motion writing but also in court has been such a fulfilling experience and opportunity.

A lot of the work I have been doing this summer has been researching and writing petitions for clients that are seeking to relocate, modify their visitation orders, file for custody etc. This opportunity to learn more about family law and being able to meet with and speak with clients has been invaluable and I am very grateful for EJA for funding my summer that makes [it] easier for me to be working with Safe Horizon's clients.

[Safe Horizon](#) Domestic Violence Law Project represents and advises survivors/victims of Domestic Violence in cases involving custody, visitation, divorce, orders of protection, and child support. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that they can keep funding law students to take public interest jobs. Without the support and funding from EJA, it would be extremely challenging for myself and my colleagues to continue fighting for low-income citizens and for public-interest related policies. Thank you!



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence

August 21, 2018

**Via Email**

Equal Justice America

Katie Toman

Office Manager

Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

**RE: EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA FELLOW ELIZABETH ILDEFONSO**

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am the Intern Coordinator and Staff Attorney at Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project (DVLDP), and was Elizabeth Ildefonso's direct supervisor during her Summer 2018 Internship. DVLDP provides pro bono legal representation to low-income survivors of intimate partner domestic violence in Family Court. We provide representation in cases such as child custody, visitation, divorce, orders of protection, and child support.

Elizabeth Ildefonso interned with our office for ten (10) weeks in the summer, from to June 4, 2018 to August 10, 2018. Elizabeth was an excellent intern in every respect. At all times she was professional and courteous with clients, staff and fellow interns. Elizabeth presented as eager to work and to learn, and was diligent in asking for new assignments. She also presented as intellectually curious about the work we do, the clients we serve, and our organization's mission and goals. Elizabeth often asked thoughtful questions about individual clients, cases or court appearances that demonstrated she was interested in serving low-income survivors of domestic violence.

Elizabeth engaged in a variety of activities, including but not limited to legal research and drafting memoranda, responding to the DVLDP Helpline calls, assisting attorneys with trial preparation, and court observation. In these tasks, Elizabeth's work was very thorough and she was receptive to comments and feedback. Our clients often come to us in crisis and they often face significant barriers to justice, such as mental health issues or limited-to-no English proficiency. Elizabeth was excellent with our clients, and spoke to them in a patient and empathetic but professional manner. She was always clear with clients about her role as an intern and what information or advice she could and could not provide. Within a very short period of time I was comfortable having Elizabeth provide simple advice and referrals to clients under my supervision, secure in the belief that she would convey information thoroughly and in a manner the clients could understand.

Please feel free to contact me at [Christina.Rich@safehorizon.org](mailto:Christina.Rich@safehorizon.org) or 718-834-7430 x 1102 if further information about Elizabeth is required.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christina Rich, Esq.  
Intern Coordinator and Staff Attorney  
Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project