



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Brittany Hacker

Law School: Boston University School of Law

Fellowship: MetroWest Legal Services

Entry 1:

As part of my Equal Justice America fellowship this summer, I get to keep you all updated about the great work I get to do! I just finished my first two weeks of work at MetroWest Legal Services where I am working with survivors of domestic violence on their family law matters. This week, we had two trials in ONE DAY. It is a totally different pace than my federal court internship where we had one trial that lasted 30 days! I wouldn't be able to do such fulfilling work without the support of organizations like Equal Justice America, who support public interest legal work around the country.

Entry 2:

In my past two weeks at MetroWest Legal Services, I have been able to start taking on more clients of my own- including two divorce clients who are survivors of domestic violence and are fleeing their abusers. But I've also been able to do a lot of immigration work, which is especially important in today's political climate and with the newly threatened ICE raids. In the past week, I filed four petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and I'm currently working on a U- Visa petition. These are applications for status for survivors of abuse, neglect and crime. Right now the wait time for a U-visa is a minimum of four years. Four years where a survivor may not be able to work and support their family. These applications would be extremely difficult for an individual to complete without a lawyer and I'm very grateful I can help just a little bit this summer.



IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

If ICE Agents Show Up At Your Door:

- Don't open the door, but be calm. You have rights.
- Ask what they are there for (and ask for an interpreter if you need one).
- If they ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant **signed by a judge*** and if so, ask to see it (through a window or slipped under the door).
- If they do **NOT** have a warrant **signed by a judge***, you may refuse to let them in. Ask them to leave any information at your door.
- If they force their way in, don't resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
- If you are arrested, remain silent and do not sign anything until you speak to a lawyer.

* An ICE administrative warrant (form I-200, I-205) does not allow them to enter your home without your consent.

ACLU

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Entry 3:

This summer I'm working at MetroWest Legal Services representing survivors of domestic violence in matters pertaining to restraining orders, custody, divorce and immigration. I am learning so much and I am inspired by my clients every single day. Today we had our unit meetings and I was reminded again how many people seeking legal aid services that we have to turn away each day. These are people who meet all of our eligibility criteria and are often survivors of trauma, but in many cases they will have to navigate the legal system alone. I'm thankful that for at least a few months, I can increase our organization's capacity. And I am so fulfilled knowing I will get to spend my life doing this great work. As a parting gift, I will leave you all with this picture of me just after I represented a client in family court on Monday (and before heading to the celebratory Chipotle lunch)!





Entry 4:

Just like that my time at MetroWest Legal Services is over! I couldn't be more thankful for all of the mentors I have had this summer who have taught me so much about family law, immigration law and working with survivors. I am very much looking forward to continuing this meaningful work after a sabbatical clerkship in the D.C. area! Very excited to be moving back to where my passion for public interest work all began.



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LEGAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIPS

