



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Health Justice Clinic at Loyola University Chicago

Update 1: As some of you may know I was generously selected as one of this year's Equal Justice America Fellows and am currently working as a fellow at Loyola University School of Law's Health Justice Project Clinic. Within my first week, I assisted in representing a family seeking asylum after fleeing Mexico from the cartel. It was very exciting to be assigned a caseload on my first day and return back to representing clients. The impact that this work has on individuals and families is exactly why I attended law school. I am looking forward to the rest of the summer!

Update 2: It is hard to believe that there is a little more than one month left of my fellowship. This summer is flying by! During the past couple of weeks, I have consistently worked on tasks to help my individual clients and policies that impact their everyday lives. The family that I assisted with their asylum hearing is now deciding if they should pursue another asylum application or stay in their current status in order to avoid some risks that may come with filing another application. There are constantly new immigration policies being announced and I am learning how important it is to do consistent research before advising a client, even if you feel you are familiar with the issue. A new immigration guidance was introduced just two weeks ago that impacted my client and eliminated rules that were created in April 2022. Each change in the law brings a different level of excitement and commitment to this work.

Update 3: My work this summer has highlighted how the effects of one's physical and mental health can impact all aspects of their lives. Each week I am tasked with assisting a family who has been referred to our office based on a health issue that has impacted their daily lives. This past week I assisted a single mother in completing an I-751 to remove the conditions on her residence. My client is a victim of domestic violence and was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The stress of her health and immigration status has demonstrated this case to be extremely complex. I am hoping for the best outcome for her and her family and grateful to be able to help in providing her with legal assistance.



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Update 4: This past week I had the opportunity to meet with my team and a client who has an upcoming asylum hearing. During the meeting, we reviewed a few affidavits of support that were submitted by experts. The expert testimony provided was to prove that she and her family's mental health has taken a turn since they were approached by the Mexican cartel. In the hearing, our team hopes to present this evidence to show the impact of the cartel on the family and to prove that their lives will be in severe danger if they are deported. While the client was reading the expert's report, she began to get emotional. It was difficult to see the client reliving her trauma. Our team comforted her and let her know that unfortunately, this may be her experience during the hearing. This client meeting served as a great experience and provided me with the tools for how to prepare clients for often traumatic experiences.