



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Children's Law Center of California

Update 1: I have learned so much these past two weeks clerking at the Children's Law Center. I have gotten the opportunity to sit in on cases, observe witness interviews, and help prep for hearings. Watching my supervising attorneys advocate for the children is such a rewarding experience, and I am excited to keep learning about the inner workings of dependency court. I am starting to get into a routine as well. I am sometimes virtual and sometimes in person, but both allow me to experience the life of a dependency court attorney.

Update 2: I have learned a lot these past few weeks at the Children's Law Center. I am becoming more familiar with interviewing clients and prepping cases, which are skills that will follow me throughout my law school career. I enjoy talking with the caregivers and clients, and I look forward to the court hearings every day. I was remote this entire week, but I am hoping that next week I will be able to come in and meet some clients. I have also been assigned a memo to work on, so I am really looking forward to it! I appreciate all of the support my supervising attorneys have given me so far, and I can't wait to see what other skills they have in store for me to learn.

Update 3: As time has passed, I have been given more and more tasks to complete. I have now interviewed caregivers, minors, and parents over the phone and even in person a few times. Observing in court has been the most helpful in my opinion because I get to see the hearings make a difference in the minor's lives. I have also been tasked with filling out forms that are submitted into the court, which made me a little bit nervous at first, but now I am getting the hang of it. It is such a rewarding experience to be helping these children who have gone through a lot, and I can see firsthand that the attorneys really do care about them and want them in the best situation they can be in. I have had some things come up in my personal life this past week, so I did not feel comfortable posting on social media. Fortunately, my supervisors have been so understanding and I have still been able to do what I need to, despite the circumstances.

Update 4: These past weeks at the Children's Law Center have been amazing. I was able to visit the Mental Health Court in LA, which was a very different experience compared to dependency court. Seeing the difference in set up and the nature of the issues in dispute was really eye-opening. I never realized how unique



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dependency court is compared to other court rooms, but I am so grateful to have gotten that experience. Aside from this, there have been some really interesting cases that have come up these past few weeks. I have gotten the opportunity to fill out several documents, including Non-Minor Dependent Transfers, Educational-Rights Transfers, and am currently working on a 388 Memo. I am so grateful for my supervising attorneys, as they have been really supportive and are always available to listen to my questions/thoughts on any case that come up. The support I have received from everyone at the Children's Law Center has made me excited for what's to come in my legal journey, and I am eager to finish off my clerkship strong.

Update 5: 10 weeks at the CLC have given me an experience I largely needed and appreciate. I came out of 1L very drained and was honestly scared of what's to come. Now, after meeting all the kind attorneys at the CLC, I have such a different outlook going into 2L. Helping the children was rewarding, since it is apparent how important the CLC attorneys are in their lives. I was even able to do interviews by myself at the end, which I am so proud of. When I started, I never would have thought I would feel confident enough to do things on my own. That quickly changed due to all the CLC staff's support. I am grateful to have made such meaningful and long-lasting memories and relationships and have been encouraged to come back. This has prepared me for any other kind of internship I take in the future, as working with children is one of the hardest yet rewarding jobs. I appreciate what this fellowship has done for me, as it allowed me to do something I love this summer.