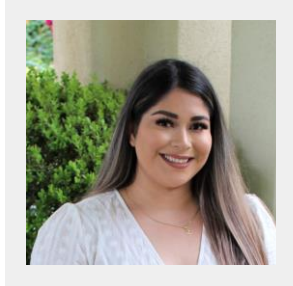




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Organization: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Update 1: Tomorrow marks the completion of my fourth week as a law clerk and LEIF Fellow with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Economic Stability Workgroup, and I am happy to report that it has been the most wonderful experience thus far. I have had the privilege of participating in client calls, case reviews, and drafting an opening brief for a client. There is so much that I have already learned, and I cannot wait to see how much more I learn over the next several weeks. All the staff members have been immensely supportive and encouraging along the way, even whilst managing their large caseload and countless responsibilities. I feel lucky to be part of such a selfless, impactful and trailblazing organization.

Update 2: It's officially the close of week 6 as a summer law clerk for Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles! Time is passing a lot quicker than expected, but I truly believe it is because of how positive my experience has been here thus far.

The most satisfying aspect of working for such a wonderful organization is knowing our work is life-changing for most clients. We are often the last resort and the source of relief in times of need, especially at such an unprecedented time like now.

Recently, I was presented with the opportunity to work on a writing project that hits very close to home. I cannot wait to share more information in the coming weeks.

Update 3: As of today, I only have two weeks left as a law clerk with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and I am deeply saddened. My time here has been challenging (in the best way possible), insightful, and motivating. I really am so inspired by the advocates I work with!

I have had the privilege of participating in conversations I would have never imagined I could even be a part of. Truthfully, I still cannot believe I am a law student and now a law clerk assisting clients with real-life matters. Reading hundreds of pages and pages about cases for a class does not compare to the experience I'm currently gaining. More importantly, it doesn't compare to the feeling of knowing you're helping effect a change in someone's life. I am excited for the next two weeks as I know I will learn so much more about myself, my colleagues, and the community we provide support to.



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Update 4: Today is officially my last day as a law clerk and LEIF fellow for Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. I loved every minute of clerking for the Economic Stability Work Group and I even grew to love research and writing! 10 weeks passed in the blink of an eye. Although I am sad about my time ending here, I am leaving with so much knowledge, both professionally and personally. Working in public interest has been insightful to say the least. It's gratifying knowing your work is touching people's lives. I can't wait to see all the great work LAFLA continues to do for our community!

Update 5: Happy Sunday! This is my final EJA Fellow Update and it's so surreal because it means it has been about a month since my last day at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, my summer is ending, and 2L is beginning! I've heard they scare us to death during 1L, work us to death during 2L, and bore us to death during 3L.... So far, I was nearly scared to death in 1L, but we shall see what 2L brings! While I am anxious to begin this next school year, I am feeling so much more confident in myself and I owe it to LAFLA for helping me develop as a law student and future attorney.

Prior to law school, I worked in family law, so I knew I wanted to try something different this summer. That is why I decided to clerk for the Economic Stability Work Group at LAFLA and I have NO REGRETS. While clerking for LAFLA, I contributed to an opening brief for a client whose government benefits were terminated. The writing process was challenging but I grew to enjoy legal writing. Throughout my legal writing process, I conducted legal research and found it is something I'm skilled at. Aside from working on the opening brief, I participated in several client intake calls for clients dealing with government benefit issues during which I learned why active listening and asking questions is crucial for counsel and advice. I was able to personally assist a client with her SSI reduction, which also involved plenty of legal research. It is fulfilling to know I helped someone who would have otherwise not known how to proceed with her appeal.

I've mentioned this before but I learned quite a lot about myself this summer, aside from all that I learned as a law clerk. I learned that although I love creative writing, I enjoy and appreciate the structure of legal writing. I learned that I enjoy legal research so much because it provides me the opportunity to learn different things through the potentially endless search results at times. However, I learned that it's ok to sometimes deviate from the structure of legal writing, but only if it's done right of course. (Haha). I also learned that legal research sometimes doesn't lead us to a clear answer, because it just might be that there isn't a clear answer, and that's ok too. Most importantly, I learned that self-care is super important because we must feel good to do good and we most definitely cannot pour from an empty cup.

I started at LAFLA feeling some self-doubt (imposter syndrome puts up a good fight), but I left feeling confident, powerful, capable, and valuable. This fall semester I am returning to Loyola Law School, Los Angeles to continue fighting for this dream of mine. In doing so, I will be participating in the State Income Tax Clinic. I am excited to be taking the skills and knowledge I gained at LAFLA with me. Hopefully I am privileged enough to return to LAFLA some day!