



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jamie Donovan

Law School: Rutgers Law School

Organization: African Services Committee

Update 1: I am so excited to be working as a legal intern at African Services Committee this summer! I started this position in the beginning of June, and I have been enjoying getting to know the ropes of immigration law. When I started law school this past fall at Rutgers Law School, I knew straight away that one of my goals was to work with a non-profit organization this summer. This would not be possible without the support I am receiving from Equal Justice America through their generous fellowship opportunity. Please consider supporting this amazing organization with a donation to further their goal of ensuring legal help is available to those who need it most, regardless of personal income

Update 2: As you all know, I have been working as a legal intern at African Services Committee for a month now. So far, I have been working on some cases in several areas of immigration law, as well as taking intake calls to help direct people to helpful resources. I am learning a lot and gaining some valuable experience. This would not be possible without the support I am receiving from Equal Justice America through their generous fellowship opportunity. Please consider supporting this amazing organization with a donation to further their goal of ensuring legal help is available to those who need it most, regardless of personal income

Update 3: I have now spent over a month working as a legal intern at African Services Committee. I have been working on some substantive cases in several areas of immigration law, as well as taking intake calls to help direct people to helpful resources. Through a combination of this and the trainings I attend on a wide variety of topics related to immigration law, I am learning a lot and gaining some valuable experience. I am eager to apply my new skills and experience throughout the rest of my time at Rutgers Law School and in my future career. This would not be possible without the support I am receiving from Equal Justice America through their generous fellowship opportunity. Please consider supporting this amazing organization with a donation to further their goal of ensuring legal help is available to those who need it most, regardless of personal income.

Update 4: I have spent the summer working as a legal intern at African Services Committee, and my time with the organization is almost coming to a close. I have been working on cases in different areas of immigration law, as well as taking intake calls to help direct people to helpful resources. This experience has been extremely



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educational, and I am eager to apply my new skills and experience throughout the rest of my time at Rutgers Law School and in my future career! This would not be possible without the support I am receiving from Equal Justice America through their generous fellowship opportunity. Please consider supporting this amazing organization with a donation to further their goal of ensuring legal help is available to those who need it most, regardless of personal income.

Update 5: It is bittersweet to say that my time with African Services Committee has come to an end for the summer. I have spent the past few months learning so much about the field of immigration law via trainings and informational sessions, as well as discussions with attorneys and peers. I was trained on screenings, asylum, Special Immigrant Juveniles, UVisas, the Violence Against Women Act, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Action NYC, naturalization, spousal adjustment, Temporary Protected Status, the Freedom of Information Act, crimmigration, tax issues, public assistance, inadmissibility, mental health, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, HIV, trauma informed lawyering, Permanently Residing Under Color of Law, employment authorization, Lawful Permanent Resident Status, removal proceedings, and more. I have gained valuable experience in the field via screening clients through calls and doing research for asylum cases. I have worked on country conditions documents, for which I researched the conditions of clients' countries of origin to summarize the relevant information about the reasons they cannot risk returning there. I also spoke with clients to help draft declarations in support of their requests for asylum, as well as friends and family of clients in order to draft supporting affidavits for their stories. Working directly with clients has taught me so much about the value of quality immigration services and the importance of the work done at African Services Committee and similar organizations. It is one thing to read about immigration cases, but it is entirely different to hear peoples' stories from their own mouths and truly understand their struggles. Whether I end up in a career in the field of immigration or not, I am so grateful for this experience, and plan to apply what I have learned going forward throughout the rest of my education and career. There is extreme value in nonprofit work, and I plan to continue working with nonprofit organizations throughout my career. I look forward to continuing my studies this semester at Rutgers Law School, including an introductory course in Immigration Law, where I will further build on my knowledge about the immigration system in the United States. I plan to apply my experience from this summer to the cases we read in class, which I hope will increase the quality of my studies. This amazing and rewarding experience would not have been possible without the support of Equal Justice America, an organization that aims to ensure that legal assistance is available to those who need it most, regardless of their income. Without the fellowship opportunity from EJA, I would not have been able to pursue this valuable summer internship. Please consider supporting the organization by donating.