



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Emani Brown

**Law School:** Texas Law

**Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

---

**Update 1:** These first three weeks have been incredible. I have been able to draft a petition for divorce, attend and observe a temporary orders hearing, help with trial prep, conduct legal research on The Hague Convention, attend the 20th Annual Legal Alliance for Survivors of Abuse Cross-Training, call clients, and even learn about immigration cases where they intersect with family law.

---

**Update 2:** I am happy to say I am continuing to learn so much about family law and domestic violence advocacy. I have had the opportunity to work on client cases regarding family violence, including violence to the children and intimate partner violence. I am also starting a new research project on DFPS practices. This project is for the new Family Defense Project that was recently started up at TRLA. I am able to help a variety of attorneys with their client load, including contacting clients, drafting final decrees of divorce, conducting calls to Spanish-speaking clients, and researching a variety of legal and non-legal topics. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with various attorneys who are working on different projects. I look forward to continuing learning more, observing more hearings, and working on more projects!

---

**Update 3:** These last couple of weeks have been pretty busy. I have started working on a VAWA case. Specifically, I am working on drafting the affidavit for the client. While it has been really emotional to get the client's story and write it for them in English, it has also taught me a lot about immigration law. I learned the nuanced differences between VAWA and U-Visa. I looked through the VAWA manual in-depth. I have also continued to help other attorneys with other tasks they may have -- sending documents via DocuSign, updating clients, etc. I can't believe the internship is coming to an end. I feel like I have learned so much, and I have really enjoyed working at a legal aid. I love how much contact I am able to have with the clients and how much hands-on experience I am getting.



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

---

**Update 4:** These past couple of weeks I have been more involved in matters that lie at the intersection of gender-based violence and immigration. I have been fine-tuning an affidavit for a VAWA application and have begun an affidavit for a I-751 application. Speaking to the clients and getting their stories has been emotional. I hope to write a statement in English that gives them the best chance at attaining legal status. I have also been wrapping up some loose ends, as this upcoming week is the end of my internship. Helping attorneys with their miscellaneous tasks is always nice. I enjoy seeing what they are working on and learning all the small tasks that are involved in the process of helping a client. I am really looking forward to this last week. I am hoping to observe a few more hearings!

---

**Update 5:** I finished my internship the first week in August. I was able to learn so much over my 10 weeks at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. I got a lot of valuable experience drafting documents on form builder, observing hearings, helping with trial prep, observing intakes, researching general and niche topics, and just being part of the Family Law Team. I was so happy to be able to help with so much and learn from so many different attorneys. My direct supervisor was so awesome and encouraged me to ask different attorneys for different tasks, and this helped add variety to the work I did over the summer.