



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:

Name: Lucy Hoffman

Law School: Fordham Law School

Fellowship: Consumer Litigation and Immigration Rights

Entry 1:

I am just wrapping up my third week as a research assistant at Fordham's Consumer Lit and Immigration Rights clinics. I have already gotten a chance to experience so much, including volunteering at the Bronx CLARO (Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office) site and helping consumer debt defendants fill out pro se court papers. Last week, I observed a petition for guardianship hearing at Nassau County Family Court as the first step in pursuing SIJS visas for clients of the Immigration Clinic. I had assisted in interview prep so it was really rewarding to be able to see the hearing, and moreover, the petition was granted! This week I am continuing working on discovery requests for the consumer litigation clinic and beginning to draft a motion to vacate a default judgment.

Entry 2:

The last few weeks have been very busy! We thought that the SIJS case would be on the backburner for a bit after the guardianship hearing concluded, but we got an unexpected court date scheduled for an immigration hearing on July 19. So in preparation for the hearing, we got the opportunity to work on filling out i-360 applications, and then filed them in court. In the Consumer Litigation clinic, we are working on drafting affidavits and answers, and we are going to begin working on an answer for a federal claim soon. At the end of this week, I will be conducting my first client interview on my own.

Entry 3:

The last two weeks were definitely the busiest I've had at the clinic so far this summer! Two weeks ago, I conducted three client interviews back to back. The first two were for the consumer litigation clinic, and we were gathering information from the clients to file an answer and a motion to vacate judgment. Both of these clients were Spanish speaking, so I was translating the questions from my supervising attorney as well as the responses from the client. The third interview was something I have been prepping for for several weeks. We are helping this client file for a U-Visa application, and we needed a lot of financial information from her. I drafted the script for this interview and conducted it without the supervising attorney, entirely in Spanish. These were great experiences and helped me feel more confident in my language skills.



Entry 4:

Last week was my last week at CLARO and it was definitely the busiest day I've had there so far. There were so many people waiting to be seen it got pretty hectic, and I was called on to do multiple intakes alone in Spanish. Before last week I always did the Spanish intakes with a native speaker, so it was intimidating to do it alone but I got through it. One of the clients the Clinic took on from CLARO in the spring came in last week also to discuss settlement options. After much discussion, we decided settlement is not in her best interest at this stage and our supervising professor found other attorneys to serve as co-counsel with her so they can continue providing her full representation. There is a court date for next week so even though I will be done working, if I am free I am definitely going to try to see how it pans out!