



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Mobilization for Justice

Update 1: I am so excited to join [Mobilization for Justice](#)'s Immigration Law Project as an intern this summer!

MFJ provides high-quality, free, direct civil legal assistance, conducts community education and builds partnerships, engages in policy advocacy, and brings impact litigation. The Immigration Law Project at MFJ provides legal advice, advocacy and representation to low-income individuals and families seeking assistance in humanitarian- and family-based immigration matters.

I am so grateful to the team for welcoming me so warmly during my first few weeks, and allowing me to dive into drafting motions, analyzing the immigration consequences of contacts with the criminal legal system, and conducting research on country conditions for asylum claims. I am honored to learn from such fierce advocates for noncitizen community members!

Update 2: Working with MFJ has been a fantastic experience so far! Staffing the intake hotline has allowed me to connect with community members as they recount their stories and immigration assistance needs. Conducting research for a diverse caseload has helped me build skills across a variety of immigration law areas, including asylum, the intersection of criminal law and immigration law, work authorization, adjusting status from SIJS, and naturalization. I am grateful to build these skills and learn to become the best advocate I can be for noncitizen community members.

Update 3: I am very grateful that the team at MFJ has supported my passion for working with noncitizens who have contacts with the criminal legal system. Under current immigration law, noncitizens can face deportation (read: permanent separation from family and community, and exile to a country they may have no familiarity with) for even minor violations. I believe no one should face a double punishment simply because they happened to be born outside the United States, and I call for immigration reform that ceases to rely on a racially unjust criminal legal system to determine who faces harsher punishments under immigration law.



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During my time at MFJ, I attended the 2023 Annual Pre-AILA Online Crimes & Immigration Seminar, hosted by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), and analyzed clients' criminal records to determine if they were at risk of triggering immigration consequences when applying for work authorization, naturalization, and other immigration benefits. I am grateful to continue learning to advocate for clients at the intersection of criminal law and immigration law.

Update 4: Thank you to Equal Justice America for providing funding for my summer internship with Mobilization for Justice's Immigration Law Project! As I start my 3L year, it's time for my final EJA update.

I am very grateful to MFJ's Immigration Law Project team for an amazing summer experience. It was an honor to work with a team of advocates who are so dedicated to their clients and so mindful of fostering a supportive work culture. I learned so much this summer about managing a large caseload, legal writing from an affirmative immigration case posture, and interfacing with clients at the intake stage (often speaking with folks who were new to the US, not English speakers, disoriented by our legal system, in unstable housing, and struggling to find representation). Thank you to Equal Justice America for your support this summer, which allowed me to gain this valuable experience!

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