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Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Update 1: I am about two weeks into my summer internship with the Immigration Director at Legal Services NYC and it has been a wonderful experience so far. I have learned a lot about the basics of immigration law while also diving into complex topics such as termination and suppression motions. I began working on researching ICE's surveillance tactics this week, and I look forward to drafting a sample motion related to this project with the other interns. It has also been great to listen in as my supervisor advises attorneys with complex cases. I look forward to getting more involved and helping more of LSNYC's clients.

I am very grateful to LSNYC and EJA for the opportunity to pursue immigration work this summer and learn from the passionate and dedicated attorneys at LSNYC.

Update 2: I am about halfway through my summer internship at Legal Services NYC and I am so fortunate to be a part of their exciting work. I am currently working on a motion for termination based on the State Department making an error in the visa bulletin for 7 years, wrongfully withholding visas in the EB-4 category from individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. I am focusing specifically on the harm this mistake has caused to Special Immigrant Juveniles, who are considered part of the employment-based visa category despite the very different circumstances that make them eligible for status.

It is incredibly rewarding to work on a sample motion that may lead to relief for SIJS youth as the State Department has offered no solution to those harmed during their 7-year mistake. I have also been fortunate to sit in on meetings with other practitioners planning to demand some form of policy relief for those impacted.

I am grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting me this summer as I help LSNYC continue to defend the rights of immigrants.

Update 3: It is hard to believe I only have a few weeks left at Legal Services NYC. I have been able to be a part



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of many interesting and impactful projects during my time here. This week, the LSNYC team filed two mandamus lawsuits on behalf of asylum seekers who have waited over five years just to have an interview scheduled. I was able to review the final complaint before it was filed and discuss strategies for getting the lawsuits covered by the media to draw public attention to the injustice of the Last In, First Out (LIFO) system for scheduling asylum interviews. I hope that these lawsuits will help bring the incredibly long wait and frustrating uncertainty to an end soon for these clients.

It has been wonderful to be a part of this project and to learn from the talented and creative attorneys at LSNYC. Their willingness to pursue more time-consuming and unconventional litigation strategies to defend the rights and dignity of their clients is truly inspiring.

I am so thankful to Equal Justice America and LSNYC for the opportunity to do such impactful work.

Update 4: Working at LSNYC this summer has given me such valuable experience and challenged me to think creatively about litigation. As a follow up to the asylum mandamus lawsuits LSNYC filed for their clients a few weeks ago, the team is looking into seeking mandamus for VAWA petitioners who have waited several years to adjust status. The other interns and I have started researching similar complaints filed by other organizations to gather the best arguments for our clients. It has been great to see what the very early stages of litigation planning look like.

In addition to mandamus research, we are finalizing our sample motion for document production from ICE regarding their surveillance of non-citizens. It has been challenging to work on this novel project, but I hope that one day our sample motion will help afford additional defenses to immigrants whose rights have been violated by ICE. In my last two weeks at LSNYC, I look forward to completing this motion and finishing up my other projects.

I have learned so much in my time at LSNYC and I am thankful to Equal Justice America for their support!

Update 5: Working at LSNYC this summer was an amazing learning experience. I learned so much about immigration law through the wonderful trainings offered by LSNYC. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to work on creative litigation strategies as an intern to the Immigration Director. This summer I got to work on a wide range of projects covering vastly different areas of immigration law.

I worked on termination arguments for victims of widespread government misconduct, including victims of an asylum seeker data breach, and victims of a 7-year long calculation error on the visa bulletin. I learned so much about the process of seeking termination and the different ways of accomplishing getting termination for your client. It was a great challenge to research for specific violations of federal law and regulations based on novel



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circumstances. Overall, it was great to learn the ins and outs of termination and all the various ways we can use termination to help our clients.

I also worked on a project to challenge ICE's dragnet surveillance practices including their access to DMV records, utility records, and large amounts of personal information available through databrokers. The other interns and I worked to draft a sample motion for document production to compel ICE to produce information on their surveillance practices related to specific cases and clients.

It was also great to work on some of the practical challenges related to immigration law practice as I worked with the other interns to brainstorm ways to challenge anti-Black bias in asylum credibility hearings. We drafted some example approaches for practitioners on how to address and call attention to implicit bias in the courtroom.

Lastly, it was a great experience to witness the mandamus lawsuits the LSNYC team filed on behalf of asylum seekers waiting over five years for their asylum interviews to be scheduled. Reviewing the complaints gave me great insight into how to seek relief for immigrant clients outside of the immigration court system.

I will definitely keep these experiences in mind as I continue to pursue a career in public interest law. The experience I gained drafting sample motions for practitioners will help me when I work on behalf of clients in the future. I am very thankful to Equal Justice America and to LSNYC for supporting my experience this summer. It was wonderful to learn from the talented attorneys at LSNYC about how to be the best advocates for our clients.