



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: UC Berkeley School of Law

Organization: East Bay Community Law Center,
Community Economic Justice Clinic

Update 1:

This summer I'll be working at East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) in their Community Economic Justice Clinic (CEJ). The first three weeks of my legal internship have been very engaging and rewarding as I've participated in several training sessions, attended the California Co-op Conference, and shadowed several client appointments.

I appreciate the CEJ staff for taking the time to organize presentations and training sessions for us. Through these sessions, we have gained a comprehensive understanding of the communities EBCLC serves, and the essential transactional and community lawyering skills that CEJ utilizes to achieve its mission. Also, EBCLC has eight different clinics and over the past few weeks, we've had those clinics present to us and offer an overview of the services they provide so that we're equipped to holistically care for our clients.

Additionally, I was able to attend the California Co-op Conference with the rest of the CEJ team. I attended several workshops on topics such as housing cooperatives, worker cooperatives, and creative fundraising strategies for cooperatives. I am grateful I attended this conference because I learned so much about cooperatives and got to hear from community members that are actively protecting and aiding their communities. I am excited about the work I'll be doing this summer with CEJ!

Update 2:

It's been five weeks since I started my internship at the East Bay Community Law Center's Community Economic Justice Clinic, and I am so grateful for all that I am learning about advancing people-oriented economic development!

I have had the privilege of engaging with diverse clients and have loved hearing about their creative ideas for their businesses, cooperatives, and nonprofits. It has been an incredibly inspiring experience to listen to their visions and witness how their plans will make a positive impact on the community. Meeting these clients



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has allowed me to witness firsthand the passion and dedication they have for their communities and organizations.

By interacting with these clients and learning about their innovative ideas, I have gained a deeper understanding of the various challenges and opportunities that exist within these organizations. It has broadened my perspective on the common issues and questions that community members of color encounter in starting and maintaining their organizations.

I have also been enhancing my research and writing skills. I had the opportunity to work on a research memo for a client who is creating a platform cooperative. I outlined the conversion procedure for converting from a Delaware C Corp to a California LLC. I am excited to continue assisting our client in achieving her goals.

Update 3:

I am more than halfway through my internship at the Community Economic Justice (CEJ) Clinic of the East Bay Community Law Center, and I am still learning a lot about Berkeley and community development.

The CEJ team is currently doing outreach to small businesses on the Adeline Corridor. We've been going around to small businesses, introducing the clinic, and asking about their experience in the neighborhood and any legal issues they might need help with. The CEJ team is also planning on conducting a formal survey within the next few months on small businesses in South Berkeley so establishing this trust with the owners is crucial to receive honest survey responses. Going out into the community has been an amazing opportunity to learn about the legal needs businesses in Berkeley have and how the CEJ team can aid them or refer them to other resources. I have also enjoyed seeing all the different businesses there are in the community and how passionate small business owners are despite the challenges they faced in the pandemic.

I have two more weeks at my internship, and I am excited to see what else I'll learn during this remaining time!

Update 4:

This is my last week interning at the East Bay Community Law Center in their Community Economic Justice (CEJ) Clinic and I am wrapping up all my assignments. This week we are presenting our research on Community Investment Trusts (CIT) to an organization in Berkeley that is interested in developing a CIT in South Berkeley. Our CEJ team was able to divide up this extensive research and each focus on a specific section. I researched three case studies to explore how CITs are structured, what initial investments and resources they utilize, the community input that is needed, and what relationships help sustain the CIT. I enjoyed researching CITs and learning how they can be implemented in South Berkeley. I am inspired by the work that community members do to protect and enhance their neighborhood, and I am excited to see what project the community members from South Berkeley develop.

I had an amazing experience in CEJ, and I am grateful for all the substantive law and community lawyering skills that I learned, and all the guidance and support I received from my supervisor. This internship reminded me why I decided to go to law school, to be a resource to communities I care about.



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Update 5:

This summer I interned at the East Bay Community Law Center in their Community Economic Justice (CEJ) Clinic. It was an amazing experience where I got to learn more about economic development and affordable housing in Berkeley.

Throughout the summer, I worked with several clients on distinct projects. I aided a nonprofit organization in creating its bylaws. Also, I assisted a cooperative in formulating board and stockholder resolutions and researched how to convert a Delaware entity to a California entity. Additionally, I researched the licenses and permits required for a brick and mortar and food truck in Oakland for a client who sought guidance in shaping her business concept. I loved hearing clients' stories and seeing how the CEJ team could help them meet their goals.

It was wonderful to learn about the tools low-income communities can use to build wealth, such as creating cooperatives and Community Investment Trusts (CIT). During my last week, our team presented our research about CITs to an organization that is interested in developing a CIT in South Berkeley. I researched three case studies to explore how CITs are structured, what initial resources they utilize, what community input is needed, and what relationships help sustain the CIT. I enjoyed researching CITs and learning how they can be implemented in South Berkeley. I am inspired by the work that community members do to protect and enhance their neighborhood, and I am excited to see the project the community members from South Berkeley develop.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to attend and shadow several Legal Cafes, 30 minutes sessions where clients were able to receive legal advice. I enjoyed attending these sessions because I was able to learn about some of the most common legal issues business, nonprofits, and cooperatives face.

Overall, I had an amazing experience in CEJ, and I am grateful for all the substantive law and community lawyering skills that I learned, and the guidance and support I received from my supervisor. This internship reminded me why I decided to go to law school – to be a resource to communities I care about.