



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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LAW SCHOOL	Columbia Law School
ORGANIZATION	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Update 1:

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to about 23,000 clients each year; however, thousands of low-income Texans still lack access to civil legal representation. Thank you to Equal Justice America for helping me be a part of this work!

Update 2:

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid's economic & social justice group supports clients with their economic stability and social welfare. Some of their work includes preparing end of life documents for low-income people. Equal Justice America helps support this work!

Update 3:

My experience at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has been eye-opening. From helping clients facing eviction remain in their housing to gaining invaluable skills, the experience underscores the crucial role of legal aid in transforming lives.

Update 4:

It has been an amazing time Texas RioGrande Legal Aid helping provide legal aid to the community. Some of TRLA's great work includes promoting enforcement of environmental laws in low-income minority communities disproportionately affected by pollution. Grateful for the experience and impact!

Update 5:

During my internship at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, I had the opportunity to work with one of the largest and most impactful legal aid organizations in the country. TRLA provides free legal



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services to low-income individuals and families across 68 counties in Texas, addressing a wide range of legal issues to promote justice and improve lives.

My work focused on two primary areas: wills and estates and environmental justice. In the realm of wills and estates, I assisted in helping clients navigate the complexities of estate planning and administration. This involved not only technical legal work but also understanding and addressing the personal and familial concerns of our clients.

In the field of environmental justice, I engaged in research and document preparation related to environmental issues affecting underserved communities. This work was crucial in addressing the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on low-income populations. I supported efforts to advocate for cleaner and safer environments by contributing to legal strategies and supporting clients in disputes with environmental regulators and corporations.

My role involved significant client interaction, where I gained firsthand experience in communicating with individuals seeking legal aid. I learned to navigate the sensitive nature of these interactions and understand the diverse challenges faced by our clients. Additionally, I worked closely with TRLA attorneys, brainstorming and strategizing on discovery processes and legal arguments, which enhanced my practical legal skills.

Throughout the internship, I researched and drafted various legal documents and memos, which provided a deeper understanding of legal writing and procedural requirements. Working at TRLA allowed me to contribute to meaningful legal support for low-income Texans, providing them with essential services and advocating for their rights. This experience not only enriched my knowledge of the legal field but also underscored the critical role of legal aid in promoting equity and justice.