



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: I posted a photo of the IDNYC applications in different languages on the City Bar Justice Center tablecloth and I wrote: Wrapping up another day at the asylum clinic! Every Thursday we hold a clinic near Port Authority to help new arrivals to the country get set up with an IDNYC photo ID card, public benefits, Fair Fares metrocard, housing assistance, and other services that they might need. The clinic is open from 10-3 but we usually end up staying longer. I spend a lot of time on Google Translate with the clients that we serve - we mainly interact with Spanish speakers, but I have also worked with people speaking French, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Italian as well!

Update 2: I attended the CBJC Town Hall today, including a very informative, interactive presentation by Sateesh Nori of what AI can do in the legal field and how it can assist attorneys and other staff members in their work. As I am currently doing a research project on using AI for interpretation purposes with clients, as well as a larger overarching project around the ethics of using AI in pro bono work, this session was incredibly relevant and eye-opening. Additionally, I attended another presentation in which Nori was also a panelist on AI and housing, where they discussed AI bias and how AI can perpetuate housing discrimination.

Update 3: I visited the CBJC Federal Pro Se Office at the EDNY Courthouse today! Was able to sit on a trial, meet with a judge and then attend two of her bail hearings, and meet a US deputy marshal for a very well-rounded experience of what goes on in a courthouse. No pictures because I do not have access to my phone during my time at EDNY, but being unplugged in that way allowed for a much more immersive experience and a chance to connect with the judge and deputy marshal that we met there.

Update 4: This week, the other CBJC interns and I went on a field trip to the EDNY courthouse in Brooklyn. We were able to take a tour of the courthouse, learn more about the Federal Pro Se office and their clients, sit in on some of a trial, and meet with a deputy marshal. It was an



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incredible experience and opened my eyes to the variety of things going on in a federal court. I also included a photo of one of the hallways because it is simply such a beautiful building.

Update 5: My last week at CBJC was incredibly busy, down to the last second. On my very last day, I reached out to a client and her wife that I had been working with since the beginning of my internship to let them know that they would be working with my supervisor directly from now on. However, instead of it being a straightforward call, I found out that they had been transferred to another shelter against their will and essentially kicked out from their current placement that morning; when we spoke on the phone, they were on the street feeling as though they had no place to go. I spent that day constantly going back and forth between those clients, my supervisor, and HRA to try and find an emergency shelter placement for the weekend. I ended up working past 5 pm, which I didn't mind at all, and my supervisor and I were able to find them a temporary placement in Queens as well as coordinate transportation to help them get there with their belongings. It was only a temporary solution, but I was grateful that we were able to secure them somewhere to stay for the weekend and that I was able to assist them through their crisis before my internship ended.