



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Samantha Santoro
LAW SCHOOL	NYU Law School
ORGANIZATION	Make the Road NY/Community Justice Project Miami

Update 1: I am in my third week at Make the Road NY, where I am spending the first half of my summer. My first few weeks have been excellent! I have been attending trainings on the history of immigration law, how to best support clients in a client-centered, trauma-informed way while in this work, and how MRNY supports its membership. I have mainly been working with my supervisor on a brief for a client whose case sits at the intersection of immigration law and criminal law. This case is an appeal case that will be submitted to the Board of Immigration Appeals, so the process has involved familiarizing myself with the entire evidentiary record of the case, which has been over 400 pages of material! I've also had the opportunity to listen to a client consult and learn about different types of immigration relief. I've learned so much and can't wait to see what else I learn throughout the next few weeks!

Update 2: I concluded my first half of the summer interning at Make the Road NY in their Immigration Unit and have moved to Miami, Florida to start my second internship with the Community Justice Project. Leaving MRNY was bittersweet - I enjoyed the work immensely and all the people that I met were incredible and lovely, but I know that I will be back in the fall to continue volunteering with their legal clinics like I used to! Community Justice Project has been an excellent place as well, with a team of dedicated movement lawyers, paralegals, and organizers that are connected to the organizing needs of the surrounding community in South Florida. I look forward to continuing to learn from them over the course of the summer!

Update 3: This is my third week at the Community Justice Project and I have been learning a lot about community organizing, movement lawyering, and how to apply an abolitionist lens to the different practice areas that I'm interested in. From attending a meeting with residents of a mobile home park that are experiencing displacement from the county and property development companies, to doing citizenship drives for folks with local immigration



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organizations, I've begun to acquaint myself with the different partners of the Community Justice Project.

Update 4: I'm nearing the end of my time at Community Justice Project Miami and am wrapping up many of the deliverables I had this summer. The connections I've made with local organizations in Miami and South Florida, as well as the support I've been able to provide, have been experiences that I will treasure. I have learned so much about what it means to be a lawyer whose decisions are guided and informed by the needs of the communities they serve through observing the lawyers at Community Justice Project. I've assisted in wage theft clinics, TPS clinics for Haitians, citizenship drives, and intakes for residents in South Florida experiencing mass evictions by landlords.

Update 5: I finished my internship at Community Justice Project Miami and learned so much. I was able to connect with so many incredible clients, learn from community-driven attorneys doing essential work mainly in eviction defense, and understand more about the dynamics, responsibilities, and goals of a movement lawyer. My responsibilities ranged from legal intakes in response to mass evictions, Temporary Protected Status legal clinics for Haitians, Citizenship Drives for people in South Florida, and research projects on different issues relating to housing, First Amendment issues, constitutional law, immigration law, and worker's rights. Furthermore, the opportunity to see the organizing in the South around so many of the issues I care about – from worker's rights to immigrant justice, to racial justice and housing justice – has been very transformative for me and I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with CJP Miami this summer! This internship, combined with all that I learned from Make the Road NY during the first half of the summer, has shown me the different experiences of working in direct services compared to movement lawyering, as well as the many points of intersection where the two areas of lawyering can intersect. As someone who is constantly vacillating between doing client-centered, client-driven work in direct services, responding to the enormous needs that people have in many areas, and adopting more of a movement lawyering approach in the work I do, observing both throughout the course of the summer has helped me structure my next year of classes, internships, and clinical work opportunities accordingly. I also believe that the work that I have had the privilege of being involved in this summer has helped me hone my legal research and writing skills as well as develop new understandings of key case law in immigration, in addition to developing my client-facing skills and continue to improve my language capabilities. I have fostered connections with attorneys, law students, paralegals, and community members who are involved in such incredibly important work both in New York and South Florida and am very much looking forward to when our paths cross again.