



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Pangea Legal Services

Update 1: After a year at Stanford Law School, I began my summer internship at Pangea Legal Services this week! I'm excited to spend the summer learning from the talented team there and supporting their removal defense work. Even though it's only been a few days, I've already started a pre-hearing statement for an asylum case and attended a press conference asking the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to continue funding the county's Rapid Response Hotline. A special thanks to Equal Justice America for supporting my work this summer.

Update 2: After three weeks at Pangea Legal Services, I've already had the chance to work on so many amazing cases! I've observed and taken notes at two merits hearings for detained clients. I've prepared pre-hearing filings for an upcoming asylum hearing. I've compiled country conditions evidence and started drafting an immigration-safe plea advice letter. Proud to be interning with an organization that provides quality, urgently needed deportation defense services and can't wait to work on more!

Update 3: I'm officially halfway through my internship at Pangea Legal Services. Recently, I've been tackling more client-facing work, including helping pro se applicants prepare asylum applications and assisting family members with letters of support for their loved ones' cases. I've also observed a number of merits hearings this summer and learned about the different ways attorneys approach immigration court.

Update 4: I had the privilege of writing and delivering the closing argument at an asylum hearing this week. I've learned so much about trial advocacy during my internship and getting the opportunity to sum up the reasons this client deserved safety in the United States was a highlight!

Update 5: As my internship with Pangea Legal Services wraps up, I am incredibly grateful for the experiences I've had this summer. I've worked on multiple asylum cases, an SIJS guardianship application, an immigration-safe plea advisory letter, and a motion to reopen. I've completed



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forms, drafted declarations, written motions, compiled country conditions, and spent hours researching Fifth and Eleventh Circuit case law. By the end of next week, I'll have observed eight different merits hearings. The highlight of my time at Pangea was the time I spent working directly with clients, and a particularly gratifying moment was being told, "you'll be an excellent attorney one day."

The attorneys I've learned from this summer have taught me the meaning of zealous advocacy. They have shown me the power of values, creativity, and centering client goals in a cruel and arbitrary immigration system. They never take an outcome for granted and always reach for the best possible option. They are the ones to ask for safeguards, object to continuances that prolong their client's detention, and submit a novel, long-shot motion in response to a change in law. Witnessing their strategies and success has shaped how I will practice in the future.

There are two big takeaways that stand out to me right now. First, immigration law is hard. It's hard to master and often, even harder to stomach. But second, and perhaps more importantly, there are kind, brilliant, and committed attorneys out there who relentlessly advocate for a better immigration system. They support one another and collaborate. They share knowledge and resources. A win for one client is also a step towards a broader idea of justice.

This summer internship has reaffirmed my commitment to pursuing a career as an immigration attorney. Where I was once daunted by removal defense, I now feel equipped and inspired. I still get nervous at the thought of appearing in court, but now I've seen the myriads of ways it can be done. I'm excited to carry these lessons forward.

A final thanks to Equal Justice America for helping fund my summer.