



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Stella Rigden
LAW SCHOOL	Suffolk University Law School
ORGANIZATION	De Novo Center for Justice and Healing

Update 1:

The first two weeks of my internship with De Novo Center for Justice and Healing have been very informative, eye opening, and busy. This week I completed country condition research on domestic violence in Guatemala and Brazil as well as on LGBTQ+ rights in Ghana. Country condition research is added to Asylum applications as evidence that the client is fleeing persistent and widespread persecution which makes it unsafe for them to return to that country. I also began working on a work permit replacement application for a client. This requires preparing the I-765 form, contacting the client for additional information, collating required documents and scheduling a meeting with the client to go over and sign the application prior to submission to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). I was further assigned to complete an I-360 form for a SIJ client to gain legal status as well as a memo on the implications of criminal charges on a client's pending application and ability to gain status.

I am looking forward to sharing more about the work I am involved in this summer as well as continuing to advocate for clients and the importance of organizations, like De Novo, which do vital, difficult and often rewarding work.

Update 2:

Since my first update I have been working on various immigration cases. I had the opportunity to write a memo on immigration law related to facts from a client's case. Since then, I have also drafted a Motion to Continue which will be filed in the Boston Immigration Court; if granted, the client's hearing will be moved to a later date which will give him and his attorney more time to prepare. I also met with a client to go over her Replacement Employment Authorization Document application and will be able to mail it in to USCIS by the end of this week. Thus far I have learned so much and am extremely grateful for all the support from my supervisors and fellow interns at De Novo Center for Justice and Healing.

On a heartwarming note, this week we received a thank you note from a client and it was lovely



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to hear how well they are doing and how much they appreciated all the staff for all their effort, work and simply for how kind they were to her.

Update 3:

Over the past week I have been able to delve into the world of U-Visas by drafting a U-Certification form, which is required to file for a U-Visa; those seeking a U-Visa have been the victim of a crime contained within an enumerated list and have provided information or help in the criminal investigation of that crime. I also completed another Employment Authorization Document application and have noticed an improvement in my efficiency and knowledge about that particular form and process. Further, I completed drafts of a Motion to Dismiss and a Motion to Amend Name for a client in removal proceedings. Regarding those drafts, I received important feedback on these drafts from a supervising attorney at De Novo Center for Justice and Healing which will help me to improve the quality of my legal writing in the future.

With only four weeks left in my internship, I have noticed a difference in the way that I think about the law, an a greater understanding of certain immigration processes, and an improvement in the quality and style of my writing. I am looking forward to making the most of this last month and continuing to grow!

Update 4:

Although I am completing my internship with De Novo Center for Justice and Healing next week, it feels like I just started and I am extremely grateful for all the support I have received this summer!

Recently, I have been preparing for a hearing next week in the Middlesex Family Court. In preparation, I spoke with the client and asked him a few questions so that I can write an affidavit on his behalf. I have also prepared his I-360 application packet which we will be able to mail following the hearing. I have done a lot of research on Family Law recently to help my supervisor determine if we can take a complicated case. I am also writing a Motion to Terminate Removal Proceedings for a client for whom I previously filed a work permit application. For this Motion, the EOIR rules have been recently amended and the basis for the Motion is different than a previous Motion to Terminate I wrote. This is a prime example of how immigration laws and regulations can change very quickly, which can be difficult for attorneys and those seeking relief.

Update 5:

I want to thank everyone at De Novo Center for Justice and Healing and Suffolk University Law School who have helped me throughout this past year, and particularly this summer. Without the support of fellow classmates, professors, coworkers, and supervisors I would not have been able to grow this much this summer and make it this far. This internship was eye-opening and taught me so much about the intricacies of immigration law and legal aid. I grew so much this summer as a student, a person, and future attorney. I appreciate all the opportunities I was given to attend court hearings, draft Motions, do research, file forms with USCIS, and learn more about immigration law generally. I am also extremely thankful to all the clients I was able to speak with and learn from and for all the stories they were willing to share with me.



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I am looking forward to using the skills that I gained and improved on in the next year!

Finally, for many, taking an unpaid internship is not feasible without Fellowship awards from organizations such as Equal Justice America. This allows the students to do the work they truly want to do and the organizations they intern for to have additional resources that they otherwise would not have access to. If you are able to donate to the Equal Justice America it will help students like me in future unpaid legal aid internships.