



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

ORGANIZATION HIAS Pennsylvania

Update 1:

It's been an absolute pleasure interning so far with @HIASPA as a legal intern this summer. Thank you so much to @EqualJusticeAm and @pennlaw for your generous support. #EJAFellowUpdate

Update 2:

My time @HIASPA has been full of direct client work, translation experience, and exploring the intricacies of immigration law. Many thanks to @pennlaw & @EqualJusticeAm for making this tremendous learning experience possible. #EJAFellowupdate

Update 3:

Very grateful to learn from my supervisors and fellow interns this summer @HIASPA! Many thanks to the generous funding of @EqualJusticeAm & @pennlaw that have made this opportunity possible. Please donate if able! #EJAFellowupdate

Update 4:

As my internship @HIASPA wraps up, I am especially grateful for the support of @EqualJusticeAM and @pennlaw for making this learning opportunity in immigration policy possible. #EJAFellowUpdate



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Update 5:

This summer I served as a legal intern at HIAS Pennsylvania, an immigration non-profit based in Philadelphia.

I decided to pursue a legal education because I wanted to understand how to use law as a mechanism for empowering traditionally marginalized demographics. Growing up as the daughter of immigrants from Mexico on my dad's side and China on my mom's, my upbringing fueled my interest in immigration. While I had previously volunteered with immigration non-profits from the social services side, until this summer I had not yet had the opportunity to dive into immigration from a legal perspective.

My time at HIAS PA consisted of extensive direct client work. It was an absolute privilege to get to know individual clients closely throughout the summer. Additionally, I had the opportunity to work between Spanish and English as many of the clients I worked with were from across Latin America. Although I grew up speaking Spanish and worked in a bilingual school in Madrid before law school, I had not yet had the opportunity to practice explaining legal concepts in an accessible format in Spanish.

One discrete project I had the opportunity to help with was organizing the logistics of a law firm working pro bono to file mandamus actions in district court for our clients. The goal of this project was for clients who had been waiting for years on their U-visa applications to get bonafide determinations more quickly so they could apply for work permits.

Perhaps the very best part of my summer experience at HIAS PA was the opportunity to learn from my wonderful supervising attorneys and my fellow legal interns. My supervisors taught me how to approach direct client work with empathy in each and every interaction. They further shared their vast knowledge and expertise in immigration law, while encouraging me to develop my own legal reasoning and advocacy skills. My peers provided a constant source of collaboration and camaraderie. The collective wisdom I gained not only enhanced my learning and understanding of immigration law this summer but also strengthened my ability to think critically and work effectively in a team.

I am so grateful for the support of @EqualJusticeAm and @pennlaw for making this tremendous learning opportunity possible. #EJAFellowUpdate