



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1:

The first two weeks at the East Bay Community Law Center's (EBCLC) Consumer Justice Clinic has been incredibly enriching and rewarding. From the very beginning, I have been immersed in a variety of engaging and educational experiences that have deepened my understanding of consumer law and its impact on the community.

One particularly memorable experience was leaving in the middle of our first day orientation to attend a hearing at a federal district court involving a case on data privacy. This opportunity not only provided a firsthand look at how privacy issues are litigated, but also exemplified the passion and importance of representation/work done by the supervising attorneys at the clinic.

As for next week, I look forward to starting client intakes and applying what I have learned to help those in need. My experiences at EBCLC so far have been eye-opening and reinforced my commitment to public interest and my desire to give a voice to my community.

Update 2:

As I reach the halfway point of my internship at the East Bay Community Law Center, I find myself more confident and immersed in the work at the Consumer Justice Clinic. The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of activities, filled with reading and briefing depositions, analyzing policy handbooks, organizing pleadings, and making calls to clients. Each task has offered a unique learning experience, deepened my understanding of consumer law and sharpened my practical legal skills.

One of the most memorable experiences from the past few weeks has been hosting a walk-in clinic at the Berkeley Flea Market with the Consumer Justice team. It was deeply meaningful to provide immediate legal assistance to those in need, right in the heart of the community. The walk-in clinic allowed us to connect directly with individuals facing pressing legal issues, offering support and guidance in a setting that was both accessible and welcoming.



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Through these experiences, I have come to realize that legal knowledge should not be confined to those working within the legal field. It should truly be accessible to everyone. This belief is at the core of EBCLC's mission in the Bay Area, where we strive to empower individuals with the legal knowledge and resources they need to navigate their challenges.

Update 3:

Just a week ago I had the unique opportunity to visit the state capitol in Sacramento and witness my advisor advocate for a debt collection bill in a committee hearing. This experience was not only inspiring but also deeply educational, as I got to see firsthand how policy work is done at the legislative level. Watching my advisor meet with committee members and present the case for the bill at the hearing was a powerful reminder of the real-life impact that EBCLC has in its work in promoting justice.

But the highlight of the trip was when I had the chance to express my support for the bill. This opportunity has given me a deeper appreciation for the multifaceted nature of legal work and the importance of engaging in policy advocacy to effect systemic change.

Update 4:

As I near the end of my summer, I am thankful for the meaningful experience, opportunities, and people that I have met.

Throughout my internship, I have become very comfortable with client intakes, filing answers, and providing proof of services for clients. These tasks have allowed me to build strong relationships with clients and gain practical experience in essential legal procedures.

One unique opportunity I recently had was visiting a big law firm to observe a deposition for one of our clients. It was incredibly insightful to see how a deposition is defended and conducted, and to understand its significance for our client. This experience enriched my understanding of litigation and showcased the strategic aspects of legal practice.

Throughout this journey, the support and mentorship from EBCLC attorneys and fellow interns have been indispensable. They have not only guided me in honing my legal skills but also instilled a deep sense of responsibility towards community service and advocacy.

Update 5:

During my time at the East Bay Community Law Center's (EBCLC) Consumer Justice Clinic, I observed the significant impact of systemic financial issues on women of color and low-income families. Many clients faced aggressive debt collection practices, leading to severe financial and emotional stress. This experience reinforced the importance of policies like student debt cancellation in promoting economic stability and addressing broader issues of racial and economic justice.

Throughout the internship, I developed a deeper empathy and a better understanding of the personal impacts of legal issues. Working on an impact case at the federal level highlighted the



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importance of teamwork and collaboration within the clinic. The regular, constructive feedback from my supervisors, Desiree and Sophia, was instrumental in building my confidence and skills. As I continue with the Consumer Justice Clinic in the Fall, I aim to further enhance these skills.

Two memorable experiences stand out. First, visiting the state capitol in Sacramento and witnessing my advisor advocate for a debt collection bill was a powerful reminder of the real-life impact of our work. I had the opportunity to express my support for the bill, emphasizing its potential positive effects on our community. This experience deepened my appreciation for policy work in shaping the legal landscape and protecting consumer rights.

Another highlight was hosting a walk-in clinic at the Berkeley Flea Market. Providing immediate legal assistance to those in need, directly within the community, was deeply meaningful and aligned with EBCLC's mission to empower individuals with the legal resources they need.

Overall, this invaluable experience at EBCLC has profoundly shaped my understanding of the legal challenges faced by underserved communities. The direct work with clients and the exposure to impactful policy advocacy have strengthened my commitment to public interest law. Moving forward, I am eager to continue using my legal skills to advocate for economic justice and to work toward creating a more equitable society.