



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

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Update 1: As I wrap up my third week at East Bay Community Law Center in the Clean Slate unit, I'm filled with a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Every day brings new challenges, but also new opportunities to make a real difference in people's lives. It's been incredible to witness firsthand the transformative power of legal aid in providing individuals with a fresh start and a pathway to brighter futures. In just three weeks, I've had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated team of legal professionals who are committed to advocating tirelessly for those in need.

As I look forward to the weeks ahead, I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue this meaningful work and to be part of an organization that is truly making a difference in the lives of others.

Update 2: Officially one month into my internship and I am incredibly lucky to work with such amazing people! I was able to lead intakes this week at the jointly run Clean Slate Clinic between East Bay Community Law Center and Alameda County Public Defender. Finished this week with a candid conversation with attorneys in EBCLC's different units about sustainability and wellness in the direct services space.

Update 3: 🔍 **Diving into the Complexities of Occupational Licensing** 🔍

As part of my current internship at East Bay Community Law Center, I'm deeply engaged in research on **cost-shifting provisions in occupational licensing hearings**—an area that plays a critical role in the balance between regulatory oversight and individual rights.

Occupational licensing is essential for maintaining professional standards and protecting public interest, but the associated costs can sometimes be a barrier, especially when it comes to legal fees and hearing expenses. My research focuses on how cost-shifting provisions—where the licensee bears the legal costs—impact access to justice and fairness in these proceedings.



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Through this work, I'm uncovering the nuanced ways these provisions affect both licensees with criminal records. It's a fascinating intersection of law, economics, and public policy, with significant implications for how we ensure equitable treatment in professional licensing. I'm excited to contribute to a deeper understanding of this issue, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals who are passionate about creating a fairer and more just system.

Looking forward to sharing more insights as my research progresses!

Update 4: During the last week of my internship, I had the opportunity to join the housing team during their monthly Courthouse Clinic at the Hayward Superior Court. This was an incredibly fast paced environment where East Bay Community Law Center attorneys and interns negotiated with landlords to try and help people facing eviction. We had thousands of back rents waived and kept several people housed as they figured out their next steps. I am so grateful for the opportunity to see another area of law and advocacy in action!

Update 5: It's been a few weeks now since I completed my internship in the Clean Slate Unit at the East Bay Community Law Center and I'm filled with a deep sense of purpose and gratitude. Working on this initiative gave me the opportunity to directly impact individuals' lives by helping to clear their criminal records, opening doors to new opportunities and a fresh start.

During my time here, I learned that Clean Slate Relief isn't just about legal paperwork—it's about restoring dignity, empowering individuals, and building stronger communities. It's been a powerful reminder of how crucial second chances are in our society.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to my supervisor and colleagues who guided me through this journey. Your passion and dedication to this cause were truly inspiring. I also want to thank the individuals who trusted me with their stories—I'm honored to have played a small part in your path forward.

This experience has reinforced my belief in the power of advocacy and the importance of accessible justice for all. As I move forward in my career, I'll carry these lessons with me, striving to continue making a meaningful difference in the world.

Here's to new beginnings, growth, and the relentless pursuit of equity. 📖 ✨