



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>	University of California Law San Francisco
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Oasis Legal Services

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#### Update 1:

#EJAFellowUpdate : Oasis Legal Services is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance with asylum, residency, naturalization, VAWA, and family petitions for LGBTQ+ immigrants. This summer, I am working as a legal intern assisting their legal team on asylum and naturalization cases. Oasis has helped over 2,700 queer and trans immigrants. I am very fortunate to receive some funding from Equal Justice America to be able to provide legal services for those with limited access. Oasis provides quality, holistic and trauma-informed immigration and social services to low-income LGBTQ+ immigrants and is the leading organization on the West Coast championing statewide and national policies benefitting LGBTQ+ immigrants. If you're interested in learning more, visit <https://www.oasislegalservices.org> and if you would like to donate to help fund my unpaid internship, please visit <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/5566019> #HappyPrideMonth 🏳️‍🌈

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#### Update 2:

During my summer break from the [University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco \(formerly UC Hastings\)](#), I am working with [Oasis Legal Services](#). This legal nonprofit assists LGBTQ+ clients with affirmative asylum, residency, and naturalization applications. Since I began at the end of May, I have gained experience working with clients on asylum and naturalization cases. Earlier this month, on [#WorldRefugeeDay](#), Oasis invited their legal interns to table with them in Oakland, CA, to provide guests with more information on how they can receive help. The event also consisted of multi-cultural performers and food from different countries. Spending extra time representing Oasis and the amazing things they do for the community was an honor. [Equal Justice America](#) helps to support my internship with Oasis, and for those who also may be interested in helping to support me, please donate to <https://lnkd.in/gitNZBJ2> [#HappyPrideMonth#EJAFellowUpdate](#)



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## Update 3:

#EJAFellowUpdate In the past few weeks, during my internship with Oasis Legal Services, I have completed filing my first naturalization case and provided help in writing a public comment on behalf of Oasis regarding President Biden's asylum ban. Oasis remains a leading organization in fighting for LGBTQ immigrants seeking asylum. Since its founding in 2017, Oasis has helped over 2,700 queer and trans immigrants navigate immigration relief and benefits. But beyond their legal and social services, I have witnessed first-hand the organization's care and consideration for their clients. Last week, I participated in Oasis' monthly session of creating birthday cards for their current and past clients. I thank Oasis for allowing me to join their community this summer. Thanks to the Equal Justice America fellowship grant, I can continue this internship during my rising 2L summer at UC Law San Francisco. If you would like to contribute to help fund my summer internship with Oasis Legal Services, please donate at <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/5566019>

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## Update 4:

#EJAFellowUpdate Last week, I experienced a Naturalization Ceremony for a client of Oasis Legal Services. This client patiently waited for the day he could call himself an American citizen after receiving asylum from his home country several years ago. It was a privilege to be a part of his journey and witness the strength behind him and his legal team. I am proud to be spending my UC Law San Francisco 1L summer working with a legal nonprofit doing incredible work for the LGBTQ+ immigrant community. My work is supported by grants, like Equal Justice America, and donations. If you would like to contribute, please donate at <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/5566019> and thank you for your consideration!

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## Update 5:

#EJAFellowUpdate This summer, I worked as an Equal Justice America fellow with Oasis Legal Services, a legal nonprofit that assists LGBTQ+ immigrants seeking asylum and naturalization services. As a legal intern, I took on asylum and residency applicants who identify as members of the LGBTQ community. I learned first-hand how to write declarations and submit forms on behalf of our clients. Due to their LGBTQ+ identification, many of Oasis' clients have faced harsh and discriminatory treatment in their home countries and seek asylum in the United States to live a more fulfilling and genuine life. It was a privilege to work with these clients as they could confide in me their personal experiences and demonstrate to me their resiliency in starting over in a new country. I learned from Oasis about being intentional with the care and services they provide to their clients to curate a vibrant community that respects and embraces the individuality of what it means to be an asylum seeker. Working for Oasis went beyond the office; they invited interns to join events such as their Puzzle Palooza, which raised money for the organization, table for Pride and World Refugee Day, and learn about its impact on the community outside their clients. Oasis also ensured their summer legal interns could gain experience in all aspects of their work. This meant shadowing interviews and appointments



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at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in San Francisco and attending virtual workshop trainings and seminars. I also participated in a naturalization ceremony for an Oasis client and witnessed him finally becoming a U.S. citizen. Throughout my short ten weeks with Oasis, I successfully completed an asylum declaration for a trans woman client and submitted her application to USCIS. I also submitted two naturalization applications, working to complete their path toward American citizenship. Apart from client work, as a legal intern, I also helped to write and edit a public comment on behalf of Oasis in response to President Biden's asylum ban. Lastly, I wrote a blog piece for Oasis entitled "The Wrongful Conviction of the LGBTQ+ Community and Immigrants" (<https://www.oasislegalservices.org/blog-oasis/wrongful-conviction-lgbtq-immigrants>) to address the overlap between the criminal legal system, immigration, and wrongful convictions. If you would like to contribute to help support an EJA fellow for the following year, please donate at <https://give.classy.org/EJA2024>