



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

NAME	Sarah Lara
LAW SCHOOL	New York Law School
ORGANIZATION	Rutgers Law Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC)

Final Reflection:

This summer has been an incredibly rewarding experience during which I gained significant insight into immigration law. Under the direction of my supervisor, I worked on a wide range of cases at various stages of the legal process. My responsibilities included preparing evidence for bond hearings and compiling complete case files for individual hearings. I particularly enjoyed collaborating with the attorneys on our team and the other interns. There was a strong sense of community within the Rutgers Law Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC), which I greatly appreciated. My work involved conducting legal research and writing, both of which deepened my understanding of immigration law. Due to the continual evolution of immigration law, it was essential to remain informed about the latest legal developments and case law impacting our clients. Additionally, I greatly appreciated the Brown Bag sessions held at IRC this summer, during which attorneys, paralegals, and interns each had the opportunity to present on an immigration-related topic during our lunch hour. These presentations were particularly valuable to me, as they enhanced my understanding of ongoing changes in immigration law and directly supported the quality and accuracy of my research.

I had the opportunity to assist in gathering evidence for bond hearings by speaking with clients' family members and friends. Additionally, I collaborated with a fellow intern on preparing documentation for an individual hearing—a critical proceeding in which an immigration judge determines whether an individual may remain in the United States or must be removed. This task required us to compile all evidentiary materials into a single, paginated file, ensure accurate citations in the brief, and meet a strict filing deadline with the court. One of the most impactful aspects of my internship was attending an individual hearing, where we submitted our evidence and observed the cross-examination of our client by counsel from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Witnessing this process firsthand was invaluable in understanding how clients



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testify and how immigration courtroom proceedings unfold. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my summer at the IRC. I had the privilege of working with dedicated attorneys and talented law student interns. While the dynamic and often complex nature of immigration law presented challenges, it was truly inspiring to observe how passionately the attorneys at IRC advocated for their clients.