



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	NYU School of Law
ORGANIZATION	The Bronx Defenders

Final Reflection:

I am immensely grateful for the support of Equal Justice America in supporting my summer internship at The Bronx Defenders. The Bronx Defenders is a holistic defense organization, with a range of practice areas including Family Defense (FDP), Criminal Defense (CDP), Civil Action (CAP), Immigration, and Impact Litigation (ILP). The organization works in a team-based model, connecting clients to a comprehensive team of attorneys and social workers working across practice areas to address clients' multiple intersecting needs arising from criminalization. I worked with the Impact Litigation Practice, which draws from clients' recurring experiences to challenge violent and unjust practices, often filing suits against the city, NYPD, or ICE.

While the content of all ILP cases is highly confidential as the cases are often in development for several years before being filed, I can speak in broad terms about the work I engaged in. I performed legal research on a variety of matters related to ILP's ongoing suits. I drafted eight legal memos on questions arising in ILP's work. I worked mainly on ILP cases related to immigration, and I also conducted research to circulate to the immigration practice to equip their work with comprehensive legal research on novel issues.

This opportunity was invaluable to me; as the immigration attorneys at BxD continue to advocate for clients in the context of an increasingly hostile landscape, shifts in enforcement and state practice necessitate the creation of novel legal arguments on behalf of clients. Engaging deeply with first principles to construct new arguments is a necessary exercise for immigration practitioners, and I was grateful for the opportunity to help BxD construct arguments and strategies they will leverage on behalf of clients facing the violence and deprivation characteristic of the immigration legal system.



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I have known that I am committed to public interest work in the immigration space. Because all of my prior experience has been in direct representation, I wanted to gain experience in impact litigation to experience legal advocacy from a new perspective and forum while assessing whether I am interested in working as an impact litigator at some point in my career. The internship did reify my commitment to work in direct representation directly after graduation. While I appreciated this impact litigation experience as an opportunity to bolster the legal research and writing skills necessary to generate creative arguments to represent clients, I found that I am most fulfilled by direct interactions with clients. This is crucial knowledge and self-awareness as I begin my legal career, and I am grateful to EJA for facilitating the experience.