



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Final Reflection: My first summer as a law student has come to an end! This summer I was fortunate to work with TRLA Laredo to serve underrepresented individuals along the South Texas border. I want to thank @stmaryslaw for providing me with this amazing opportunity to help those who need it the most. Additionally, I want to thank @equaljusticeamerica for awarding me with a fellowship to provide some financial support, as most legal internships are unpaid. A huge thank you to all the donors who contributed to the Equal Justice America Fundraiser. You all contributed \$3,730 that will go towards providing more legal assistance to underrepresented communities by awarding more fellowships to law students to help the greatly understaffed legal aid services. Dios los bendiga y Unidos Somos Más Fuertes.

I was very fortunate enough to gain hands on legal experience with various talented attorneys and paralegals. I tackled issues ranging from Family Law to Public Benefits, I was able to draft memorandums, divorce decrees, and delve into the Code of Federal Regulations researching public benefit exceptions and eligibility. A great percentage of our clients also included veterans, who have unfortunately become an underrepresented class. At TRLA's Ask-a-Lawyer event at the Laredo VA Clinic, I was able to shadow a former veteran and attorney where he gave troubled veterans legal advice and if applicable, took on their case. Some of the hardest hitting cases were working with individuals seeking a divorce from their abusive partners or attending meetings about Laredo's ongoing domestic violence issues. The facts of these cases are not for the faint of heart, but they remind me of why I believe people become attorneys, to help those who need it the most and to remind the community that lawyers aren't just motions, objections, and snarky remarks.



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This experience has instilled in me transferable skills across the legal profession by allowing me to undertake responsibilities that include drafting legal analysis memos, interacting with clients, and solidifying my knowledge of the procedures of federal and civil court. With this internship, I not only established a foundation for my legal expertise but also laid the groundwork for understanding that serving the entire community is a lawyer's mission. I valued my time being a law clerk for a nonprofit legal aid law firm because every movement as a legal aid attorney makes an impact on the life of the client. There is no room for error, and this summer, I believe I helped create a positive impact on many lives. Thank you once again to TRLA.