



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	Temple University
ORGANIZATION	HIAS Pennsylvania

Final Reflection:

This summer I had the honor and privilege to work for HIAS Pennsylvania, a nonprofit immigration organization. HIAS PA is committed to helping refugees, asylees, and immigrants acclimate to living in the United States as well as working to help them acquire their immigration status and documentation. During my internship I worked as a legal intern and was given a full caseload of about 20 clients that I had the honor of working with.

The clients I worked with were genuinely incredible and changed my life. I grew up as the child of two immigrants who came to this country with nothing. I knew firsthand how difficult it is to not only be an immigrant but to acclimate in a country that doesn't have the proper infrastructure to support immigrants.

That's why working at HIAS was so meaningful to me. Not only was I working with clients every day to help them acquire their immigration documentation, but I also was a support system to these families and individuals. I would accompany clients in court, connect them with social services, and also give them any tools or resources they need to help their families build a life here. It was a full circle moment to work with hardworking and amazing families that reminded me of my own parents. The sacrifices my parents made led me to this point to help families like our own.

I had one client in particular who I think of often. He was a parent to his incredible children and worked multiple jobs to help them get an education and live comfortably. In addition to this, he still managed to be one of the kindest people I've ever met. He showed me so much compassion and demonstrated what it means to be a villager in a village. Seeing the way he



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showed up for his family but also his immigrant community was so moving. He would always go out of his way to help our other clients connect with our legal services and even be there as a source of emotional support. He also encouraged me to keep going with the work I was doing.

I felt very insecure when I first took on his case as I had never done legal client work before and he had full confidence in me from the beginning. He didn't judge me for not having the same experience as my lead attorneys and remained patient. I will never forget him and think of him often as a role model that will guide me and the kind of person, and attorney I hope to become.

I will always be so thankful for my time at HIAS, it truly changed my legal career for the best. Additionally, I also will be grateful to have been a part of the EJA fellowship program. My internship with HIAS was unpaid and had I not got the funding from EJA I would not have been able to put my full attention on HIAS without working a second job to subsidize my cost of living.

It is a privilege to be a part of other EJA Fellows as we all work collectively in our mission to provide free and affordable legal care to various communities. The support of EJA has helped me feel more confident in pursuing other public interest legal paths in the future. I also hope to connect with other EJA alumni in order to hear more about their experience and work and see if there is other legal work I can be a part of.