



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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| NAME | Ariana Guerrero |
| LAW SCHOOL | University of Texas at Austin School of Law |
| ORGANIZATION | UCLA School of Law - Center for Immigration Law and Policy and Immigrant Family Legal Clinic |

Final Reflection:

Over the course of ten weeks, I worked as a joint fellow for UCLA School of Law for the Center for Immigration Law and Policy and the Immigrant Family Legal Clinic. This internship was a unique opportunity to pursue both my interests in impact litigation as well as direct, trauma informed migrant services. On the direct services side, through the legal clinic a youth from Central America is ready to head to her probate court hearing, do her change in guardianship while requesting SIJS findings. I drafted her declaration which part of the first step to becoming eligible for a green card under SIJS. On the impact litigation side, my work was able to inform real time legal questions against challenges to Los Angeles for their sanctuary policies. In addition, I was able to direct lawyers and lawmakers on what precautions to take for undocumented students given administrations recent and targeted ITIN policy changes.

CILP and the clinic's work is vital to Angelenos and the overall migrant justice movement. Being from Texas I learned about the impact local jurisdiction protections can have on migrant communities even if an administration openly antagonizes them. It is not a win all situations but surely local actors being on the side of at-risk communities does provide some heightened protection. I learned the importance of cross-state advocacy and support. Today, I am more motivated than ever to keep fighting for our BIPOC migrant communities in Texas. Personally, this summer experience has reaffirmed my commitment to keep aiding migrant families through direct services and ultimately channeling their needs into impact litigation. It is up to us as advocates to keep resisting against a system instituted to repress the vulnerable and instead be a voice for these communities through our legal work and community engagement.