



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Truong Xe
LAW SCHOOL	UC Law San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings)
ORGANIZATION	Asian Law Alliance

Final Reflection:

My summer at Asian Law Alliance ended on Friday, August 18, 2025. I spent 10 weeks throughout the summer, bifurcated into a 6-week and 4-week schedule so that I could also attend a seminar abroad in Germany. The experience overall allowed me to feel like I contributed a lot to my local community of San Jose this summer. I had the opportunity to participate in substantive legal work (such as case work, legal research, writing memos, and form preparations) and community engagement (such as Saturday immigration clinics and Know-Your-Rights presentations).

From my first week, I was immersed in diverse areas of law including immigration, domestic violence family law, tenant rights, and public benefits. The hands-on experience at ALA's intake and immigration clinics allowed me to directly assist clients with DACA renewals, naturalization applications, and EAD renewals. This practical application of legal knowledge reinforced why I pursued law in the first place—to serve as a bridge between complex legal systems and people who need guidance navigating them.

The research component of my work proved equally valuable. I completed comprehensive research memos, including one analyzing exceptions to the 1-year statutory bar for asylum petitions and conducting country conditions research for clients facing persecution based on political views and sexual orientation in China, Nicaragua, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Later in the summer, I tackled a complex naturalization case, analyzing N-400 questions for a client with prior removal proceedings that had been resolved through discretionary waiver.



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Working during a challenging period for immigration law—amid current administration changes and the Supreme Court’s recent ruling allowing third-country designations for deportation proceedings—reinforced the critical importance of this work. Despite regulatory setbacks, we continued providing essential services, from basic intake and form-filling to complex asylum cases. Understanding the LIFO system’s impact on asylum seekers, where newer cases jump ahead of those filed years ago, highlighted the urgent need for immigration reform. One of my most meaningful experiences was presenting Know-Your-Rights information in Vietnamese to a room full of Vietnamese elders. Led by my supervising attorney Minh Nguyen, this community engagement reminded me of my deep connection to immigrant households like my own. The elders’ questions about constitutional rights during immigration encounters touched my passion for serving my community.

This summer resurfaced my commitment to community service and social justice, nurturing aspects of my professional identity that needed attention after months immersed in law school academics. Like my parents, who persevered through the Vietnam War to become U.S. citizens over 20 years ago, I learned that resilience and grit are essential, especially during uncertain times. The work reminded me that every EAD renewal, and even intake form, contributes to upholding the rule of law and ensuring access to justice for those who need it most.