



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Ascend Justice

Update 1: Buenos dias. I want to take the time to share that this summer I will be interning at Ascend Justice. I will be focusing on T Visas due to my background in human trafficking work. I am thrilled to learn about the legal side of the work I am so passionate about.

I am fortunate to be an Equal Justice America Fellow, so I embark on this journey with tremendous support.

Update 2: It's about to be a month since I started my internship at Ascend Justice. So far, I have tackled the language line, client interviews, derivative intakes, composed timelines, and screened for: U Visas, T Visas, and asylum.

I am grateful to have the experience and knowledge that I hold to empower survivors through their journey to stability.

Update 3: Good morning, I am halfway through my summer internship at Ascend Justice. I am currently tackling an affidavit for a T-Visa. Making sure to preserve the client's voice and connect real life traumatic experiences to the elements of the law is meticulous work. My supervisor has been very supportive and took the time to guide me through his affidavits to prepare me. One of the things I had to relearn after stepping away from gender-based violence is that you will have more than one phone call with a client to gain the full scope of the situation. As of now I have had a handful of calls with the client, and each requires at least an hour. Reminding myself to always be patient, trauma informed, and human helps me navigate these long conversations.

Update 4: Here is a quick update on my summer internship at Ascend Justice. I recently submitted my first affidavit for a T-Visa, which are for survivors of human trafficking.



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After completing multiple interviews with the client, with the help of the language line, I had pages of notes with the client's experience. As I wrote out the affidavit, I continuously reminded myself to preserve the client's voice and their perspective.

Remembering that this is a human's real experience helped me write each word with a lot of thought and care. I realized that finding the sequence of events and words to tell a complete story is meticulous work. I am proud of the experience I am receiving and I hope I portrayed the client's experience as best as I could.

I want to thank Equal Justice America for the support you have provided me and the support they provide to public interest work.

Final Reflection: As I am coming to the end of my summer internship at Ascend Justice, I am thinking about how much more confident I feel about my focus in public interest work. I had the opportunity to hear about other law students' summer internship experience and one of the main difference between working in the non-profit space and a government agency is the motive that drives the staff and the work.

At Ascend Justice I learned from all types of people with different perspectives and experiences, but I could see and feel that most of them were there because they truly cared about the work they support. Being in this environment gave me a sense of fulfillment and it exposed me to the legal side of the work that I was already doing before law school. I want to thank everyone at Ascend Justice and Equal Justice America for supporting public interest and nurturing the interest that incoming attorneys have in this field.

This summer I had the privilege of conducting client interviews, screening for T-Visas, U-Visas, and Asylum, providing vital interpretation services, and researching and formulating a guide for employees with Employment Authorization Documents. In addition, I gained valuable legal writing experience by drafting a T-Visa affidavit. Through these experiences, I strengthened my interpersonal, trauma-informed care, and analytical skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the work I hope to do in the future.

Although I have learned so much during my limited time at Ascend Justice, I know there is so much more I can learn. This fall, I am committed to continuing my work at Ascend Justice. I decided to remain at Ascend Justice because of supervisors like Mr. McGuire, who have provided me with the space to take the lead in my assignments while also giving me the guidance and support to dive deeper into the legal work.

Here we go 2L.