



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Today marks the end of week 2 of my internship at the National Immigration Project! I am so thrilled to be interning this summer with such an incredible organization fighting for immigrant rights.

I've already learned so much about the complexities of the Special Juvenile Immigrant Status process and the long backlog for these young people who have received their approval notices but are then stuck in legal limbo as they wait for a visa to become available. I've also been able to participate in a client meeting and some engaging strategy conversations regarding how best to advocate for clients in detention at this current moment. I have appreciated everyone's kindness and willingness to answer my questions as I learn the ropes. I look forward to all that is to come the rest of the summer!

Thank you to Equal Justice America for supporting my work this summer. I'm honored to be an EJA Fellow! To help Equal Justice America continue supporting law students and expanding access to justice through fellowships like this one, please consider making a donation.

Update 2: At the National Immigration Project, I'm learning what it means to go above and beyond for your client. NIP's advocacy and care for clients is intentional, thoughtful, and just inspiring. Over the past few weeks, I've had the pleasure of helping a media campaign meant to put pressure on ICE to release our wonderful young client whose community has only the very best things to say about him and is ready to do whatever they can to bring him home. Establishing a rapport with the client while also getting to hear from his support network has meant a lot to me. I am also working on a research project in which I am learning about due process arguments that have led to successful habeas petition decisions. I even got to draft a



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motion to expedite the consideration of a habeas petition for another one of our clients who has been in detention for far too long.

It's been so great to learn from such creative and determined immigration attorneys. Overall, the internship experience has served as further confirmation that this is the career path for me.

Update 3:

I can hardly believe that my internship at NIP will be ending soon! The past few weeks have been busy and rewarding! I have continued learning about successful due process arguments, specifically relating to claims falling under *Zadvydas v. Davis*, for habeas petitions. I am now putting this research to good use as I help draft a filing for an individual who had been navigating this process on his own, as a pro se litigant. Two weeks ago, I was able to provide feedback in a moot as attorneys prepared for an important oral argument that they later won (five clients went home!!!)

Recently, I was able to dive into the history of TPS designations, extensions, and terminations for a few countries, which felt especially surreal given the reality TPS holders are facing right now. Looking ahead, I am working on a few new cases that I'm very excited about. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to connect with clients and draft parts of briefs that can hopefully lead to their release!

Update 4:

The last few weeks, I have been able to support the Free Them All VA Coalition, an incredible group dedicated to amplifying the voices and demands of folks in Virginia's immigration detention centers. If you would like to read testimonials by folks who are detained at Caroline or Farmville, you can read some of the testimonials posted by the Coalition [here](#). And if you'd like to donate to the Liberation Fund, which raises money for commissary and phone funds for people in Virginia's ICE detention centers experiencing truly awful conditions, you can do so [here](#). I have also worked on a supplemental rebuttal brief explaining why our client's continued detention is unconstitutional after almost two years in detention. I've learned so much through this drafting process and have greatly appreciated the guidance from attorneys on this project. I hope he can be free soon!

Final Reflection:

Last month, I wrapped up my summer internship at the National Immigration Project. I've struggled a bit to put into words what the experience meant to me without understating the tenacity of the NIP team or sensationalizing the trauma of the clients I was lucky enough to work with. We keep hearing how hard it is to work in immigration right now, which is of course incredibly true, but after this summer, I'm also reflecting on how hard it would be for me to not



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work in immigration. We need advocates who are willing to roll with the punches as the immigration landscape keeps changing and can help lift their colleagues up on the hardest days. I had many great moments during my internship, but some of my favorite ones were at the end of meetings when we would celebrate the wins, especially on the days clients were going home thanks to the organization's work.

Every step of the way, I felt like a valued member of the team at NIP. My colleagues would ask for my opinion and be on the lookout for projects that would be particularly interesting to me and/or could help me grow professionally. I learned so much about how to conduct client meetings, write compelling briefs, synthesize complex legal theories, and be in community with clients, their loved ones, and advocates. Whenever I had moments when I questioned whether I was the right person to be doing a particular assignment or had what it takes to work in this space, I knew there were folks I could turn to. I am so grateful for the lessons I learned from the NIP team and their clients, and I will carry them with me as I move forward in my legal career. Thank you to everyone at the National Immigration Project for a great summer, and especially to my supervisor Bridget Pranzatelli who would constantly go out of her way to ensure I was having a positive internship experience. I am so grateful!

Thank you so much to EJA and their wonderful staff for helping me have this impactful summer experience.