



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Last Monday, I started my position as a Law Clerk at the Texas Civil Rights Project's Beyond Borders team. I have been following TCRP's work for years, and I am so incredibly grateful and humbled to be contributing to the great work they have been doing defending immigrant rights in my home state.

In my first few days here, I have met so many like-minded, passionate, intelligent, and great people—from senior staff attorneys, junior attorneys, other law clerks, and undergraduate interns. I have also dived headfirst into working on habeas corpus claims by drafting amicus briefs and working within a coalition of activists to fight laws hostile to immigrants in the Fifth Circuit.

It has been very gratifying to see how impact litigation and advocacy works in practice, and I am so excited to learn and see more this summer.

Update 2: I have completed just under a month at Texas Civil Rights Project and have been loving my experience so far!

I have had the opportunity to contribute to substantive legal work, and I am hopeful that the work we are doing will make a meaningful difference for immigrants throughout the Fifth Circuit.

One of my biggest goals entering this summer was to learn more about habeas litigation, and I have already exceeded that goal by working on complex cases involving immigration detention.



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I have also gained a deeper understanding of detention practices and the many legal and practical challenges our clients face.

Additionally, I have been able to see firsthand how coalitions of advocates, nonprofit organizations, and attorneys work together to advance litigation and support clients, which has been incredibly rewarding.

I am excited to continue learning and to see what the rest of the summer will bring.

Update 3: I cannot believe I am already halfway through my summer at TCRP! I have been incredibly grateful to be a part of this team and to contribute to the fight for immigrants' rights in the Fifth Circuit.

The legal landscape remains challenging. Recent developments—including the Fifth Circuit's decision regarding the Texas Dream Act and heartbreaking news out of Houston involving a fatal ICE encounter—serve as reminders of how much is at stake. Despite these setbacks, this work has also given me hope. Every day, I see attorneys and advocates fighting tirelessly to protect the rights of immigrants, and I am grateful to play even a small role in that effort. Additionally, we recently celebrated a rare but meaningful victory when the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Sosnava* affirmed important procedural due process protections for immigrants. Moments like these remind me that, even in difficult times, advocacy can make a real difference.

It has been fascinating to see how litigation strategy and broader advocacy efforts complement one another, as well as the thoughtful considerations that both attorneys and advocates bring to this work. This summer has reaffirmed that public interest litigation is the career I want to pursue, and I am excited to continue learning and contributing during the second half of the summer.

Update 4: As my summer comes to an end, I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of TCRP's valuable effort to defend immigrant rights. Moreover, I have been fortunate enough to have been able to take the lead on drafting important motions and other filings in high-profile cases in order to protect those who have been victimized by the government's mass deportation scheme.

I have also been incredibly grateful to receive thorough, helpful feedback from my supervisors at TCRP; and I am certain that I will carry those lessons with me throughout my career defending immigrant rights.



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Though the end of my time at TCRP is fast-approaching, I remain still very committed to become a solid, competent legal representative who receives the most favorable results for our clients.

Final Reflection: I recently completed my ten-week clerkship with the Texas Civil Rights Project's Beyond Borders team. While leaving was bittersweet, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to spend my summer working alongside attorneys who are committed to protecting the rights and dignity of people impacted by the federal immigration system.

Much of my summer centered on federal habeas litigation challenging prolonged and unlawful immigration detention. One of my first assignments involved assisting with an amicus brief in a complex habeas case concerning a couple who had been separated from their children. I also helped draft a habeas petition on behalf of a man who had survived human trafficking, built significant community ties through his U.S. citizen wife and child, and had a pending application for humanitarian relief, yet remained detained for more than a year. In another case, I took a larger role in representing a detained family, helping draft a habeas petition, a motion to enforce, and a reply brief. Working on these cases showed me that behind every legal issue is a person whose freedom, family, and future may depend on the arguments we put before a court.

Beyond individual cases, I contributed to broader systemic advocacy. I researched legislation affecting noncitizen students, tracked habeas appeals throughout the Fifth Circuit to identify opportunities for proactive outreach, and engaged in creative legal research examining overlooked provisions of the Texas Constitution that could support novel challenges to state action affecting immigrant communities. These projects pushed me to think beyond the immediate case in front of me and consider how litigation and legal research can contribute to broader structural change.

This summer deepened my understanding of immigration law, strengthened my grasp of the procedural complexities of federal litigation, and taught me the practical realities of representing people navigating an incredibly complicated system. More importantly, it reaffirmed why I came to law school. I entered the summer hoping to learn more about habeas and impact litigation, and I leave with an even stronger commitment to pursuing civil rights advocacy. I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting me this summer and to the attorneys and clients who made the experience so meaningful. I look forward to carrying these lessons with me throughout my career as a public interest litigator.