



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Hello everyone! This summer, I am working with the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Unit at The Public Law Center, where we help tenants facing housing instability, unlawful evictions, and other barriers to safe shelter. This is my first experience working at a legal non-profit, and the experience has been deeply motivating. A single workday can span a wide range of legal needs as we assist clients who are facing immediate eviction notices, navigating housing court, and drafting answers to unlawful detainers. Our unit also assists clients maintain or apply for housing vouchers which help many low-income individuals secure housing stability. The most impactful part of this experience has been the direct client interaction. In the classroom, legal issues were neat fact patterns, but in reality, these legal issues make significant impact to the lives of many. I've learned to listen actively, become more detail oriented, and translate complex legal concepts into accessible guidance. These experiences have helped me become a better advocate and reinforced why I came to law school.

Update 2: These past few weeks, I have continued to work on research memos for clients who are dealing with eviction notices, unlawful detainers, and requests for reasonable detainers. Additionally, I have also helped my supervising attorney with providing advice and counsel to clients both during clinic and separate calls. Interviewing clients/giving advice is one aspect of the legal profession that I do not have much experience in, and my supervisor has been providing me with very helpful feedback and guidance on the best ways to approach these calls with clients. I have also drafted demand letters to the opposing party.

Update 3: During these last few weeks, I continued to improve my legal writing skills by drafting advice and counsel memos and demand letters to landlords. Additionally, I was assigned research projects to find case law that is relevant to a very specific type of trespass letter. I have



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also been learning about the housing authorities in each county and how housing choice vouchers work. I also went on a group trip with my summer intern cohort and met Judge Ramirez Almadani. I am also scheduled to observe unlawful detainer court tomorrow.

Update 4: The week of July 6th, the Public Law Center organized a visit to the federal courthouse to observe a court hearing of Judge Ramirez Almadani. We observed civil cases and found the differences between the federal and state courts fascinating. The different procedures, as well as the kinds of questions that the judges asked the parties were insightful. I also worked on a memo to help give advice and counsel to a client that was facing an eviction notice as well as termination of her housing voucher. To better complete this memo, I did extensive research on the local housing authority administrative plan, and the HUD green book.

Final Reflection: I completed my last week of my summer internship. During the final weeks, I continued to help write demand letters for clients who were served with invalid eviction notices and also assisted in drafting requests for reasonable accommodations due to disabilities. I learned that California statute allows tenants to write reasonable accommodation letters on behalf of other qualified individuals even if they are not part of the household. I also visited eviction court again, and the cases I observed showed me just how tenants are at a huge disadvantage when they are representing themselves in court and will likely lose even if they have a strong case without the support/advice of an attorney.