



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	ACLU of Southern California

Update 1: I am incredibly grateful to be at ACLU SoCal's Immigrants' Rights Project this summer. The past 2.5 weeks have already been such a meaningful learning opportunity. So far, I have led witness intakes, drafted declarations, and reviewed the factual record in various cases that are important to protecting our immigrant communities. I have been fortunate to work with supervisors who are not only incredibly kind and generous with their time, but also brilliant in their expertise. I look forward to learning more as we continue to advance justice for all.

I am deeply grateful for Equal Justice America's financial and professional support. I am excited to see where the rest of the summer leads!

Update 2: Working at ACLU SoCal's Immigrants' Rights Project has given me the opportunity to support immigrants' rights advocacy across different channels. I am currently working on various cases, which allows me to exercise new skills every day. I have had the chance to draft declarations and help build factual records for ongoing litigation, while also preparing habeas templates for folks challenging their unlawful detention. I am incredibly grateful to implement the skills I learned from law school into making a tangible difference. Beyond these skills, I have also had the chance to learn from affiliates and immigrants' rights advocates across the country via various coalitions. Being in community with so many amazing advocates continues to inspire me in my own legal career.

Update 3: I am incredibly grateful for my time at ACLU SoCal this summer! In the past few weeks, I've conducted legal research on various questions in our ongoing federal litigation. This work has been both intellectually stimulating and deeply fulfilling. ACLU SoCal's Immigrants'



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Rights Project has made such meaningful strides in the immigration landscape, and I am so thankful for the chance to support their mission.

Beyond legal research, I also had the opportunity to attend two hearings in federal district court. These experiences were so insightful in providing a deeper understanding of litigation strategy and courtroom advocacy. It's been so exciting to see the team's behind-the-scenes work in action! I'm looking forward to learning more throughout the remainder of my internship!

Update 4: As I approach the end of my time at ACLU SoCal, I remain deeply thankful for all that I have learned this summer. In the past few weeks, I continued to engage in complex legal research and in-depth legal writing. I'm looking forward to working on my writing sample, which is the product of intense research and brainstorming throughout the past weeks. I have truly enjoyed working in a fast-paced environment that challenges me to grow as an advocate. As part of my internship, I also had the opportunity to join various brown bag meetings and attend strategy calls and coalition meetings. All of these learning opportunities have enriched my views as budding attorney, and I so enjoyed being able to learn from the ACLU community.

Final Reflection: This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to intern with the ACLU of Southern California's Immigrants' Rights team. Through this internship, I grew both professionally and personally. It was a joy and honor to begin applying the skills I learned in law school. This summer challenged me to refine my legal research and writing skills through various complex assignments. Among other cases, I worked on *Vasquez Perdomo v. Mullin*, which challenges federal immigration enforcement practices and policies during immigration raids in Los Angeles, including suspicionless stops and racial profiling. I also worked on *Fazaga v. FBI*, which challenges the FBI's secret surveillance of Muslim-Americans. Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to support the team's work on various briefs and motions (and even drafted declarations for the first time!) – which gave me a feel for the high-intensity, mission-driven work of impact litigation. This experience truly cemented my commitment to pursuing a public interest career in impact litigation and policy advocacy. I am deeply grateful to my wonderful supervisors who encouraged me to approach projects with greater independence and attention to detail. I look forward to continuously honing the skills I developed this summer!

Beyond the substantive work, this experience taught me a great deal about community lawyering and collaboration. I had the opportunity to join various coalition calls throughout the summer. These opportunities highlighted various public interest community organizations the ACLU partners with. It was amazing to hear from advocates across California and across the nation. Sharing meaningful space with folks truly reminded me of our collective power in the immigrants' rights movement. As communities



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continue to forge ahead in this tumultuous moment, it is deeply inspiring to be surrounded by fierce advocates.

Looking back, I am so grateful for everything this summer has taught me. I am forever thankful for Equal Justice America's support of my public interest career, and I look forward to starting 3L with these insightful experiences in hand.