



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: I have just begun my second week at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Clinic and already I have learned so much! This position has given me the incredible opportunity to dive headfirst into the field of immigration law and learn about its procedures and intricacies. As I prepare materials for an upcoming filing deadline, I can feel my research and writing skills getting better by the day. It is so rewarding to be able to put the lessons I learned in my Legal Research and Writing class to use so quickly. I have a great team of fellow interns and attorneys here that have created such a welcoming and nurturing environment and I look forward to learning from them and their incredible work! Thanks to Equal Justice America for helping to make this opportunity possible!

Update 2: Things are getting busy! Last week I worked with other interns to complete an I-589 asylum application from start to finish on a tight deadline. I enjoyed getting to work with the client and learn about this complex process. I also turned in the first full draft of the BIA appeals brief that I've been working on and began making revisions today. Later this week, I look forward to visiting our hospital partnership and conducting intake appointments with referrals there.

Update 3: After the 4th, I'm excited to get back to work! We are putting the finishing touches on our appeals brief and engaging in citation and substantiation checks. It's been crazy to see it all come together so fast, but I'm proud of what my team has been able to produce.

Update 4: As my internship comes to a close, I've been working on writing an asylum declaration for a client I worked with earlier in the summer, researching potential issues that might arise for a client that we are working to obtain citizenship for her spouse and collecting



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immigration resources for future students to use. I've learned so much this summer and am looking forward to leveraging those skills in the future.

Final Reflection: This summer allowed me to grow above and beyond the ways that I'd hoped when I first accepted the position. On Day 1, I was entrusted with a major brief-writing assignment on a topic that I didn't yet know much about. The good news? Immigration law had been developing so rapidly that no one else knew the answer much either. The following weeks were a crash course in immigration law, and I had the opportunity to learn from attorneys and professors with years of experience in the field. I grew to appreciate the fact that the question wasn't easily answerable – it gave me the opportunity to dig deep into research, think about innovative arguments, and exercise my own legal creativity. By the end of the process, I had a brief I was not only proud of but one that tackled new legal questions and that I had the opportunity to revise multiple times in response with new BIA decisions. Beyond that brief, I really enjoyed getting to meet and work with clients, often in relation to submitting their asylum applications or in considering what kinds of immigration statuses they might be eligible for. It was a great way to ground the often-frustrating high-level work with the extremely meaningful outcomes we can work towards for individuals at the micro level. Overall, this was an incredible opportunity to get litigation experience, tons of legal research and writing work, and interface with clients. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity and hope to continue working in this field down the line!