



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: I am honored to be able to work at Public Law Center this summer. I have been able to gain firsthand experience working with clients and helping to advocate for their needs. Being able to meet with clients and hear their stories has been the highlight of my summer. So many do not have the resources nor means to obtain representation. Hence, I am very grateful to be able to work for Public Law Center; who has made it their mission to help these members of the community obtain justice. Working day in and out to help further this mission has enhanced my passion behind law.

Update 2: I have had great shadowing experiences at Public Law Center. I am so grateful to be able to assist clients firsthand and see their cases to fruition. It has been an honor to assist them, and I have learned so much from each of their individual stories. In a system that has so much legal jargon and is not easy to navigate, I am grateful to be there to support them through it.

Update 3: I have been enjoying my time at the Public Law Center. I have been able to help clients one on one, assisting multiple clients through their cases under the mentorship of my supervising attorney, Kevin Camino. It has been such an amazing experience to meet with clients of all backgrounds, hear their story, and use my knowledge and abilities to best assist them. I have learned that the wheels of justice turn with the proper support. I have enjoyed seeing clients become more empowered as they are able to meet goals they have set for themselves and go about their daily routines without these blockades and barriers to doing so (barriers to access to healthcare, custody orders, domestic violence restraining orders, etc.).

Update 4: I was able to shadow a continuous back and forth settlement and stipulation that was signed between attorneys. This was very empowering to see and I learned so much. I loved watching the attorneys be advocates for the client while finding common ground and coming to



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a mutual agreement that befitted both sides. This was so empowering to see. The client was the first client I had helped this summer, and I had transcribed all the evidence for her case. It was a full circle moment and seeing her walk out of the courthouse feeling strong and confident was the best gift.

Final Reflection: I have had such a great summer experience working at Public Law Center! I have enjoyed all the attorneys I have had the privilege to meet and shadow. They have given me amazing opportunities and hands-on experiences. I am so grateful they trusted me to meet with clients via phone and in person, run clinics, fill out forms and file documentation, complete major research and writing assignments, and attend many court hearings. I learned what argument styles land better in front of a judge, how to best advocate and be an extension of the client to ensure the client feels heard, and the importance of empathy and boundaries.

In order to be the best advocate for a client, it is so important to keep boundaries in place and also remember that we are always above all upholding the ethical values of law and our reputation. I have had the privilege of hearing client's stories and researching laws, codes, and compiling this information with their case facts to advocate for their rights in custody cases, divorce matters, and restraining orders.

I have also learned the importance of patience and knowing what cases to prioritize when and to accept that sometimes clients are going through so much in their own lives that they do not have the capacity to continue on with their case or may change their mind about moving forward. However, regardless, the hard work put in and work quality is so important.

I am so grateful to have been entrusted to hear clients' stories and help them through the most difficult and intimate parts of their lives via family law matters. Hearing their stories has been the greatest gift as I would not be able to have the hands-on experience to learn and grow without their trust and maintaining that trusting relationship with the client.

I am so grateful to PLC and my supervising attorney as well as the family law unit for taking me under their wing, giving me challenging work and assignments to figure out whether it be writing or research or forms with a client and being willing to sit with me and line by line review my work to help me to continue to grow and develop my legal skills.