



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow

Name: Alicia Arman

Law School: Cornell Law School

EJA Fellowship: East Bay Community Law Center

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate:

Having an amazing time so far at East Bay Community Law Center! I'm working on Social Security appellate advocacy and the interaction among different types of state and federal benefits. With the high cost of living in the Bay Area, it's imperative that our community members get the aid they're entitled to so they can stay a part of our community.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Continuing to enjoy my time with **East Bay Community Law Center**! Our work is necessarily intersectional because people who need disability and public benefits services come from many different communities. I am learning to lean in to discomfort and say YES to new cases and experiences that challenge me so I can be of the most help to our clients. Please consider supporting **Equal Justice America** so folks like me and the amazing people I work with can continue serving our communities in need!

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate:

It's been busy here at **East Bay Community Law Center**! Yesterday we had our monthly Name and Gender Change clinic and helped community members update their legal names and gender markers - so nice to see folks excited and happy, especially since we're used to seeing people in crisis.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

I can't believe my time at **@East Bay Community Law Center** is coming to an end! Writing goodbye letters to the clients I served this summer reminds me how lucky I am to do this work. I've learned so much from my colleagues, and even more from our clients. Big thanks to EBCLC for the incredible experience and **Equal Justice America** for making this possible! If you can, please consider supporting EJA for the next generation of public interest attorneys!



August 31, 2018

Emma Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Emma Ruben,

My name is Nora Wilson, and I am a staff attorney at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). I was Alicia Arman's primary supervisor over the summer while she was an intern with our Health & Welfare Practice.

The Health & Welfare Practice provides critical legal services to Alameda County residents who are at risk of poor health outcomes due to poverty, unsafe living conditions, homelessness, inadequate health care coverage, and other destabilizing social conditions. The program provides legal services to clients through our HIV/AIDS Law Project, Medical-Legal Partnerships, and Public Benefits & Justice self-help clinic. Similarly to attorneys in our practice, Health & Welfare interns work with low-income adults and children in our community who are living with disabilities in order to holistically address varied legal needs, with a focus on reducing barriers to health care created by lack of stable income, housing, and health care coverage.

Alicia was tasked with interviewing clients and assisting them with access to safety-net public income and health care benefits including cash aid, nutrition assistance, SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance, Medi-Cal, and Medicare. She took on one of our highest priority adult disability cases and prepared an incredibly well-researched and artfully argued brief to support a client with his initial Social Security application, which is currently before an Administrative Law Judge. Her focused and dedicated work on this case was extraordinary. At the same time, Alicia balanced working with numerous other clients at various stages of disability and public benefits cases, building trust and rapport with a level of empathy and skill that are all too rare in the legal profession. She also helped staff our Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic, creating a safer space for transgender and non-binary community members to update their identification documents and connect with our office for additional services.

Alicia's commitment to our clients and enthusiasm for our work extended beyond direct legal services into policy organizing and community outreach. She represented our organization at a local Health Resource Fair and Castro Valley Pride. Additionally, she connected with Asian Community Collaborative and Californians for SSI to provide our practice with better insight into the current policy landscape so we may better collaborate with policy partners. She researched and provided us with an assessment of the statewide push for universal Medicaid/Medicare and worked to oppose and rally her peers regarding the "public charge" policy that would threaten our immigrant clients. Finally, she advocated for improved internal EBCLC policies to support students, staff, and community members who are living with disabilities.

I have supervised over a hundred clinical legal students during my career and can say without hesitation that Alicia was one of the most outstanding. It was a joy working with her, observing her passion and impressive level of organization, as well as her commitment to learning and serving as an ally for marginalized communities. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 269-6629 or at nwilson@ebclc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora E. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nora E. Wilson, Esq.