



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Adriana Vega

Law School: Michigan State University College of Law

EJA Fellowship: Internship: The Legal Aid Society of NYC- Juvenile Rights Practice

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past two weeks I have worked with The Legal Aid Society of NYC in the Juvenile Rights Practice. The staff is dedicated to assisting and representing children who appear before the Family Courts in New York City in child protective proceedings, termination of parental rights, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision cases. Here, I have conducted research, gone on home visits, observed court proceedings, and sat in on client interviews.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past few weeks I have worked with The Legal Aid Society of NYC in the Juvenile Rights Practice in the Manhattan Family Court. Here, I have had the opportunity to meet with clients within the community and help advocate for clients by conducting research, preparing for hearings and appearing on the record.

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past 5 weeks I have worked with The Legal Aid Society of NYC in the Juvenile Rights Practice in the Manhattan Family Court. I have had the opportunity to interview clients, go on home visits in the community to meet our clients, I have appeared on the record in court to advocate for our clients, and I have worked on motions to be submitted to the courts for our clients.



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the course of my internship with The Legal Aid Society of NYC- Juvenile Rights Practice, I have had the opportunity to gain practical experience through conducting home visits, conducting client interviews in person and over the phone, appearing on the record on behalf of clients, doing legal research and writing, going through discovery, and helping write motions on behalf of clients.



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Manhattan Office

August 10, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Adriana Vega was an intern at the Manhattan office for the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice from June 4, 2018 to August 10, 2018. She was able to meet the expectations we have for an intern of her legal knowledge and at times she was able to surpass our expectations.

Adriana showed a great desire for our work and was able to accept any assignment given to her. While here, Adriana completed research; reviewed discovery and completed a case digest; met with clients; appeared on the record for permanency hearings and arraignments; conducted direct and cross examination of witnesses; and drafted documents, including a motion to deal and an Order to Show Cause. She was also able to work on child protective and delinquency cases, and worked jointly on cases with staff attorneys and paralegals.

One of Adriana's assignments was for a permanency hearing, which continued over several appearances. She did an excellent job preparing her direct exam of the caseworker, as well as a cross examination outline, followed up with the foster mother and worked with a paralegal to get additional reports and evaluations that were needed for the hearing.

Despite the caseworker's paucity of knowledge on the case, Adriana was able to elicit the

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needed information on the record, entered documents into evidence, and held her own with an active judge. She was prepared, worked hard and was ready for whatever occurred in court. The judge praised her work on this case.

Adriana appeared on a contested visitation hearing, where she called the foster parent of the subject child as witness. Adriana prepared her questions in advance and went through the questions with the witness. Unfortunately, the witness did not testify as expected, but Adriana was able to handle the situation appropriately and did not get frustrated or flustered on the record.

Adriana was an asset to our office this summer. And she was willing to work diligently to complete each task on time. She was also a joy to work with.

Sincerely,

Renee F. Mittler

Assistant Attorney-in-Charge

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