



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Aerica Siegel
Law School: Southwestern Law
EJA Fellowship: Public Counsel

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past week and a half I have worked with [Public Counsel](#)'s Early Care and Education Law Project to assist home child care providers with asserting their rights as tenants. I am amazed at how quickly landlord-tenant miscommunications can escalate and am grateful attorneys at Public Counsel work quickly to support tenants.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the last couple weeks at [Public Counsel](#), I have been working with the Community Development Project's HOPE Unit. I attended a press teleconference, rally and city council meeting to support our client, Uplift Inglewood. <https://lnkd.in/gg7XdDv> Also, I am researching state and local codes to assist another client, LA Street Vendor Campaign. <https://lnkd.in/gJ2QF5f>

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past couple of weeks, I have worked with [Public Counsel](#) to survey homeless individuals and assist them in formally documenting complaints of police misconduct in Pomona, CA. It was a great experience spending time with homeless individuals and hearing their stories. Separately, I researched the process of how local government in California may implement rent control ordinances during a state of emergency or other urgent conditions. I enjoyed understanding how the Emergency Services Act operates. Also, I learned about the urgency of the housing crisis in California.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Recently at [Public Counsel](#), I attended an Immigration Summit hosted by The Nonprofit Partnership where I learned about how local organizations can support immigrant communities. Also, I helped a client who is a small business owner prepare an answer to a construction related accessibility claim.

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August 14, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Ritu Mahajan and I am a senior staff attorney with Public Counsel's Community Development Project and Early Care & Education ("ECE") Law Unit. I was Aerica Siegel's supervising attorney this past summer during Ms. Siegel's internship.

Public Counsel is the public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. Public Counsel's ECE Law Unit provides legal assistance on a variety of issues to existing and prospective child care providers, mostly minority women, who care for low-income children. We also work with community partners and policy-makers to advocate for an increase in quality child care facilities in Los Angeles County and throughout California.

As Aerica's supervising attorney at Public Counsel, I worked directly with her on a regular basis. She always took initiative by volunteering for new and challenging assignments, displayed great communication skills, and came to work with a positive and team-centered attitude. She managed our intake line during her ten-week internship, which involved speaking to clients on a regular basis and honing in on their legal issues and questions. She easily built rapport with clients due to her commitment to our work and her natural ability to empathize with others. She also researched and wrote several memos this summer in order to assist our clients who were facing evictions due to their child care, land use challenges, had questions regarding privacy laws, and needed assistance understanding employment and state licensing laws. Lastly, Aerica assisted me in updating and giving a training to nonprofit agencies on revenue generating activities. She consistently exceeded my expectations in terms of the effort and attentiveness with which she pursued her responsibilities.

It was a pleasure working with Aerica this summer. If you have any questions, please contact me at 213-385-2977, ext. 135 or rmahajan@publiccounsel.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ritu Mahajan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ritu Mahajan
Senior Staff Attorney