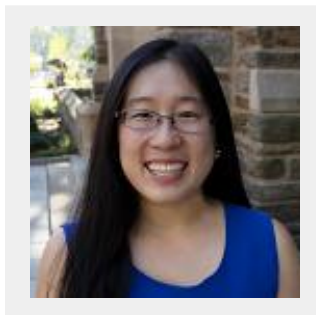




Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Amy Chin-Arroyo
Law School: Temple University
EJA Fellowship: HIAS Pennsylvania

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

As part of my fellowship, I will be sharing updates about my internship at HIAS PA this summer. I am excited to be working with and learning from such smart, kind, and passionate folks. Over the past couple weeks, I have had the privilege of listening to the stories of brave, resilient women and children who escaped horrific violence and abuse in Central America and drafting their affidavits for asylum cases. This past Thursday in immigration court, I witnessed a scared teenager bravely advocate for herself without a lawyer and later learned that the immigration judge had gone above and beyond the scope of his duty to connect her to much-needed services. In the midst of these unsettling times, it was truly inspiring to witness the girl's courage and persistence, as well as the judge's compassion and humanity.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

As part of my internship at [HIAS Pennsylvania](#), I observed a Know Your Rights presentation and helped with intake interviews at a shelter that houses migrant children in Pennsylvania. I met a 3 year old, a 5 year old, and an 8 year old who had been separated from their mothers after entering the U.S. In these troubling times, it is more important than ever to speak up and combat injustice.

Entry 3: Week of 7/30/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

In this current climate of xenophobia and hostility towards immigrants, the need for immigration legal services has never been higher. During intake on a Tuesday afternoon, [HIAS Pennsylvania](#) received 42 voicemails in less than 1.5 hours from potential clients seeking legal assistance. During that time span, the receptionist, staff, and interns were continuously answering the phone and conducting intake screenings. Although [HIAS Pennsylvania](#) and other organizations are operating at maximum capacity, the need for services still far outstrips organizational capacity.



Entry 4: Week of 8/20/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

For the past couple months, it has been an honor, pleasure, and privilege to intern at [HIAS Pennsylvania](#) under the supervision of the wonderful [Stephanie Lubert](#). Stephanie has shown me how to be a resourceful and effective advocate and how to navigate the highs and lows of advocating on the frontlines of U.S. immigration law for asylum seekers, especially in these scary and unpredictable times. I would like to thank [Equal Justice America](#), [HIAS Pennsylvania](#), and [Stephanie Lubert](#) for this unforgettable opportunity and experience. Please consider supporting EJA so that law students like me can continue to intern at public interest organizations doing important and much-needed work.

Dveera Segal, Esq.
President

Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.
Executive Director



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July 26, 2018

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Evaluation of Amy Chin-Arroyo's EJA-Supported Summer Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Stephanie Lubert and I am an attorney with HIAS Pennsylvania's Immigrant Youth Advocacy Project ("IYAP"). I was Amy Chin-Arroyo's supervising attorney this past summer during her EJA fellowship.

IYAP attorneys help vulnerable children obtain protection under our immigration laws, including defense in removal proceedings. We seek Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for abused, abandoned and neglected children, who are placed in foster care or with a guardian. We also seek asylum for children fleeing gang violence, domestic violence, and other dangers in their home countries.

This past summer the refugee crisis at our southern border was suddenly thrust into the media and political spotlights with immigrant youth at the very center of the national conversation. Through her Equal Justice America supported internship, Amy preformed critical legal work to protect immigrant families, especially children, from deportation. Amy conducted legal screenings for children detained in an Office of Refugee Resettlement run shelter, drafted affidavits for children seeking asylum, researched Central American country conditions, assisted *pro se* asylum seekers during asylum clinics, accompanied IYAP attorneys to interviews before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, and observed the juvenile docket at Immigration Court.

Amy always displayed a positive attitude. No matter the assignment, Amy worked diligently and quickly. She never shied away from asking questions. Her finished work products were organized and well edited. Amy was also empathetic and in-tune to the unique struggles faced by immigrant children. The EJA fellowships make it possible for hard-working, compassionate law students, like Amy, to gain experience on the frontlines of justice and build lasting professional connections. Amy was a joy to work with, and has a bright future ahead of her as an advocate for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lubert, Esq.