



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Mia Williams-Collings

Law School: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

EJA Fellowship: Lone Star Legal Aid

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past few weeks I have worked with Lone Star Legal Aid to research ways we ensure that lower income families are treated fairly and know their rights.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past few weeks I have worked with Lone Star Legal Aid to research ways to advocate for low-income residents. We are working on code enforcement and how to ensure that tenants know their rights, know how to bring a proper complaint, and how to ensure that complaint is addressed properly. I have been fortunate enough to draft documents that will be given to the community to ensure that they know their rights as well as know where to get help to fight back.

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past few weeks I have been working with Lone Star Legal Aid to help residents in Port Arthur with issues caused by poor management of drainage systems. I am amazed at the issues that these residents have faced and the lack of ownership of the issues and the lack of willingness to help the residents from the city and the county.



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

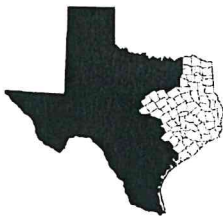
This week I have been working to form partnerships with local schools in order to host “Know Your Rights” events that will be geared towards letting low to moderate income residents know their rights as a tenant and what their landlords are supposed to be doing. There are staggering amounts of apartment complexes that have various code violations affecting the health and wellbeing of their tenants. Many of these complexes are home to those on housing assistance and attempt to take away their tenants voice, leaving them to believe that they have no option but to stay in an unsafe complex. At Lone Star Legal Aid we are working to educate tenants and fight against the slum lords.

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August 1, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Toman,

I am writing this letter to provide you with a supervisor evaluation of Mia Williams-Collings' performance as an Equal Justice America Fellow. She was an invaluable member of our team here at Lone Star Legal Aid. Her work has positioned us to achieve our goal of community revitalization.

Mia developed one of our core community development initiatives. Specifically, she owned LSLA's place-based program which seeks to partner with schools and other community allies to improve living conditions and housing stability in low-income neighborhoods. Mia evaluated the most renter saturated parts of Houston and those schools with the greatest school enrollment turnover rates. After identifying the targeted schools, Mia followed through by scheduling meetings with the Principals. She represented Lone Star Legal Aid with professionalism advocating for the initiative's benefit to the community. Furthermore, Mia drafted demand letters and "Know Your Rights" materials working closely with experienced attorneys.

On a personal note, Mia has been an absolute joy to have around the office. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of her legal training. Mia possesses all of the skills and personal characteristics that would make for an exceptional public interest attorney. Please feel free to reach out if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tariq Gladney
Managing Attorney